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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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FIRST EDITION.

XLIV. CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 17, 1877.

SENATE.

Mr. Morton, from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, stated that the money appropriated to carry on the investigations now being made by that committee had been expended. A bill appropriating $5,000 additional to defray the expenses of the committee had passed the Senate but was delayed in the House of Representatives. A sub-committee of the Committee on Privileges and Elections was now in Louisiana. Its investigation was very important, but the committee could not go forward without money. He made this statement in order to exonerate himself from any responsibility in the suspension of these investigations.

During the morning hour, the Senate passed a number of private bills, after which Mr. Morton took the floor and replied at length to the remarks of Messrs. Johnston and Withers, of Virginia, made yesterday, in regard to the occupation of Petersburg by the military on the day of the late election for President. He defended the action of the President and argued that under the law the President had the right to send troops to the polls in any State for the purpose of keeping the peace.

Mr. Withers promised a reply to-morrow, adding that the colored people were beginning to vote with the white people of the South, and he noticed from measures presented here and from expressions, notably by Senators Morton and Sherman, a latent purpose on the part of the Republican party to divest the colored people of the right of suffrage given them by the Constitution.

Mr. Sherman said the Senator had imputed to him an idea which never entered his head. He denied that he desired to deprive the colored people of the right of suffrage. If left to themselves, the colored people would naturally vote for that party which gave them liberty and the right of suffrage.

After some further discussion, the subject was laid aside, and Mr. Sargent, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported back the House bill making appropriations for the consular and diplomatic service of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1878, with various amendments, which was placed on the calendar. He gave notice that he would call it up for consideration to-morrow, or as soon thereafter as he could get the floor.

The Chair laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of War, transmitting the report of Major G. Weitzel, of the corps of engineers, in regard to the superintendence and management of the Louisville and Portland Canal. Referred.

The consideration of the report of the Committee on Rules, revising the rules for the government of the Senate, was resumed. After extended discussion upon the amendment proposed by the committee to compel the attendance of absent Senators, when necessary to make a quorum, the amendment was agreed to. The committee also reported an amendment declaring that the Vice President shall by his vote determine a question when the Senate is equally divided. After some discussion it was amended so as to read "may by his vote determine" and, as amended, was agreed to. The report of the committee was then agreed to and it was ordered that a sufficient number of copies of the revised rules be printed.

The Senate then went into executive session and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A resolution was adopted permitting E. W. Barnes to go to New Orleans in custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms to procure certain telegrams and return to Washington with them within ten days.

A discussion took place upon the resolution reported by the Judiciary Committee yesterday in relation to the refusal of the members of the Louisiana Returning Board to produce certain papers before the Louisiana special committee.

Mr. O'Brien said that the report and resolut on before the House received his entire approval. The object of the investigation was to determine the legality of the acts of the Returning Board and to verify the returns made. Congress had this power and in this crisis, when the existence of the Government itself might depend upon the true results of the Louisiana election, it must resolutely exercise it to the fullest extent.

Mr. Hoar said that he was struck with amazement that it should ever have fallen to his lot to defend the right of an American State against a Democratic House of Representatives. He laid down this proposition: That whatever power the House had to compel the officers of a State to deliver up the records of that State and bring them to the House to be kept according to its will, that same authority the Legislature of a State had over the United States officials within its jurisdiction.

Mr. Bland asked if a committee of the House had not the power to examine ballots in the case of contested elections for members of Congress.

Mr. Hoar replied that the records which were sought for were the records of local elections and recorded to which only related to the existence of the government of the State. Nobody doubted that there was a certain class of records to which the principle he had laid down did not apply; but the records of an election of Presidential electors were records essential to the preservation of the Government and the sovereignty of the State itself, and Congress had no right to lay hands on them and bring them out of the territory of the State.

Mr. Hereford stated that the House had never ordered the papers to be taken out of the State's jurisdiction. It had refused even to allow an inspection of them. The right of the people to inspect public papers never had been doubted until to-day. Why was it that at this stage of this investigation the Democratic party met with obstacles and objections from the Republicans? It was because for years past Governors could be dishonored and no question, no objection, no protest came from the other side. Legislatures had been disbanded and yet no protest came from the other side. But now the voice of the people must be allowed to be heard in deciding this great question.

Mr. Banks said that the records demanded were the records on which the existence of the State government and the Government of the United States depended. He defied any gentleman to find in the history of the United States a single instance in which such a demand was made. No man could justify the officers of Louisiana, if they had given up their records into irresponsible hands.

Mr. Southard said that in the Forty-second Congress, the Committee on Elections in the Senate had been ordered to inquire whether there was a State Government in Louisiana, and in that investigation the committee summoned to Washington the members of the Kellogg and McEnery returning boards and the records of both parties had been produced before it. (Laughter.)

Mr. Banks replied that in that case the existence of the government of Louisiana had been at stake. That government had not been established and the question had been whether one or the other of these governments should be established. It would be conceded that on the records demanded would depend the election of the President of the United States. If they were destroyed, the original evidence of that election would have been destroyed. If they were surrendered up, they were surrendered (he made no impeachment of the committee) to absolutely irresponsible parties. They might be accidentally lost or intentionally destroyed. If those records were lost by accident or destroyed by design, the only evidence that exists on which the election of President is founded and the Government of the United States established, would be lost or destroyed; and the manifestations of interest and applause, even that yell which had been so historic, and which was heard yesterday, showed to what extent some men not connected with the House were willing to go in such a matter. What was the foundation for this extraordinary, unparalleled and unprecedented demand, which would take from the government the very evidence and foundation on which its authority and right to existence must be based? Mere public rumor; and whence did it come? From the party interested in the destruction of the original evidence. The State of Louisiana, he declared, ought never to yield those papers except to overwhelming force and the Government of the United States ought never to suffer the State of Louisiana to be deprived of their possession except by a power greater than that of the United States. [Sensation.]

Mr. Hurd defended the resolution and argued that the only question was whether the House of Representatives had power to enforce the production of papers called for by an investigating committee and now in custody of the Returning Board; and when gentlemen on the other side interposed the objection that the States had rights which Congress could not interfere with, they simply begged the whole question. He thought that the reference of his colleague [Mr. Garfield] to the Pierpoint-Tilden fraud in 1844 was most unfortunate. His colleague had said that the Whig party of that day acquiesced in and submitted to that fraud. He would say now, however, that that acquiescence in fraud and outrage was not a precedent that was to be followed by the Democratic party or by the people of the country at this day. [Applause on the Democratic side.]

Mr. Kasson regarded the proposition before the House as a usurpation of power dangerous to the future peace and welfare of the Republic.

Mr. Cox closed the debate by saying that the State of Louisiana was prostrate, but she is just as necessary NOW to the Great West, to the great North, to the whole country, as she ever was, and she has a potential voice in determining for this people who shall be our Chief Executive. Let us not, Mr. Speaker, allow that voice to be throttled or despised, and let us carry out the authority of Congress to show to the people that the voice of Louisiana has been given for liberty, for peace, for honesty, for Democracy, and for Samuel J. Tilden. [Applause on the Democratic side.]

The vote was then taken, and the resolution for the arrest of the members of the Louisiana Returning Board, and their production before the bar of the House to answer for contempt, was adopted by a strict party vote, yeas 158, nays 81.

The Senate amendments to the Contingent Deficiency bill were reported by Mr. Foster, of Ohio, and acted on by the House, some being concurred in and some rejected.

The Speaker presented the resignation of Mr. Spencer, of Louisiana, as a member of the House, he having accepted the appointment of Judge of the Supreme Court of Louisiana. The House then adjourned.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

The Eastern Troubles.

ANNOUNCEMENT THAT RUSSIA WILL PAY TROOPS IN SERVIA—THE POLES ON THE ALERT.

LONDON, January 18.—A dispatch from Belgrade to the *Standard* reports that the Russian Colonel, Milaradovi, commanding a brigade 6,400 strong, composed of Servians, Bulgarians, Russians and others in Servia, has promulgated an order of the day announcing that the brigade will henceforth be paid by the Russian Government. The first payment was to be made yesterday.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard* declares, notwithstanding a report to the contrary, that the Poles seem determined to take advantage of Russia's difficulties.

THE "THUNDERER" ON THE SITUATION—RUSSIA BELIEVED TO CONTEMPLATE WAR.

LONDON, January 18.—The *Times*, in a leading editorial, discusses the opinion which is held by a large portion of the press and by the public generally that Russia will quietly accept the abortive conclusion of the conference, and says: We trust it will prove correct. But if we hold this opinion it must be as a matter of faith and not of evidence. What are the facts upon which this judgment should be founded? The Czar's Moscow speech remains unmodified by any later utterance. The Russian army is now indisputably in a high state of preparation. The latest news from Odessa in a letter dated January 12th, and published in the Cologne *Gazette*, is that the railway company has again been ordered to suspend the goods traffic from January 15th, as large numbers of troops, especially from the vicinity of Moscow, are to be sent southwest. It is admitted that addresses continue to pour in upon the Czar almost daily from all points of the Empire. The correspondent who states this fact adds, however, what is of course his personal impression, that the popular enthusiasm is fast dying out. Allowing full weight for this judgment, the inference from the above facts is plain that the Czar has not abandoned his purpose. On the other hand, General Ignatieff has been the foremost advocate of conciliation at Constantinople. Are we to interpret Ignatieff's attitude as showing that the Czar wants an excuse to refrain from war? Or is it simply a demonstration of his confidence that the Porte, balked, leaves him to fulfil the Moscow declaration? One alternative is as plausible as the other.

In connection with the above, it is to be noticed that the Belgrade correspondent of the *Times* says that information derived from Russian officers who have arrived at Belgrade from Kishneff, show that previous accounts of the bad condition of the army were greatly exaggerated. "I am inclined to believe," continues the correspondent, "that the Russians are not averse to allowing their enemies to underrate the strength of the blow they are prepared to deal."

REPORTS FROM THE EUROPEAN PRESS.

A Berlin dispatch to the *Times* says that propositions to cross the Pruth actively continue.

A Pera special to the *Daily Telegraph* reports that Turkey and Servia have agreed to an exchange of prisoners.

General Tchernayeff on being interviewed in Paris said that he declined not that the war would be renewed in spring.

All the Constantinople correspondents of the London journals and nearly all those at European capitals, express a decided opinion that the Turks will not yield.

The *Daily News'* dispatch from Constantinople says that the ultimatum is a more efficient document than at first supposed. It does not sacrifice the executive powers of the international commission.

FOREIGN NOTES.

General Tchernayeff arrived in Paris from Dresden yesterday.

The steamer Olympic, from Boston, has arrived at Queenstown, and the Oder, from New York, at Southampton.

The Paris *Message de Paris* reports that Russia has countermanded all supplies which she had ordered in Germany.

The cost of the relief works and other measures for mitigating the famine in Madras and Bombay, is £6,500,000.

The Rome correspondent of *L'Univers* says that it is believed that Pope Pius intends to fill up all the vacant cardinalates.

Negotiations have been reopened with France, and there is a probability that Germany will participate in the Paris Exhibition in 1878.

The Turkish Government is stated to have decided for the present not to issue the seven million pounds of Turkish paper money recently decreed.

The Turkish commandant at Silistria has been ordered to punish the Bashi-Bazourks who crossed the Danube and plundered a Roumanian outpost and killed two Roumanian soldiers.

It is stated that the German Ambassador at Constantinople is instructed not to sign the final protocol about to be submitted to the conference, without having previously reported its text to Prince Bismarck and received a reply.

The German Government proposes to reintroduce the bill, once before Parliament, making more severe penal provisions against socialistic agitations. The Socialists are not likely to succeed in any second ballots, as the Conservative parties are now thoroughly united against them, except the Ultramontanes, who will support the Socialists in some districts.

THE FATAL BRIDGE.

Testimony of Amasa Stone, Jr., Designer of the Ashtabula Bridge.

CLEVELAND, January 17.—The Legislative committee appointed for that purpose took the testimony of Amasa Stone, Jr., former manager of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad, this forenoon, regarding the Ashtabula disaster. Among other matters Mr. Stone testified that he was the original designer of the bridge at Ashtabula. He only superintended the plans and there was no change of plans by him after the work was projected; but there was an error by the contractors which gave considerable trouble. A brace was put in horizontally when it should have been vertical. The change of righting the braces was made before the bridge was finished. Mr. Stone says that the superintendence of construction was in the hands of Mr. Tomlinson, until he found him incompetent and discharged him. The bridge had been put in the hands of Mr. Rogers, whom he thinks never put together an iron bridge before. The dropping out of one or two counterbraces would not effect the destruction of the bridge, as they have but little service to perform excepting to stand a shock.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

S. N. Hawes, the defaulting City Treasurer of Covington, Kentucky, who absconded recently, has been arrested in London, Canada, and will soon be extradited.

An explosion of five tons of powder early yesterday morning demolished three buildings of the Schachticoke Powder Mills, near Troy, New York. The shock was felt twenty miles around. A large quantity of powder was on hand for the Prussian Government.

The Ohio Legislature.

COLUMBUS, January 17.—In the House to-day, bills were introduced to require that the trustees of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad shall advertise for ninety days for proposals to complete and operate that road; to make it the duty of an elector to challenge any voter whom he knows to have used money, liquor or other consideration to influence any elector's vote. A resolution was offered and referred to a committee asking the Ohio Senators and Representatives in Congress to support the bills pending before Congress allowing pensions to date from the discharge in the case of the soldier, from the death of the husband in the case of widows.

The Whitewater, Wisconsin, Manufacturing Company's furniture warehouse and finishing rooms were burned yesterday. Loss $25,000; insurance $10,000. About 20,000 coffins were burned.

SECOND EDITION.

The National Capital.

Plan of the Joint Committee on the Electoral Vote.

A Tripartite Tribunal Proposed.

Heated Debate in the House on the Louisiana Contempt Case.

More Democratic Corruption Unearthed by the Senate Committee.

Captain Howgate's Plan of Arctic Exploration Indorsed.

GENERAL NEWS AT WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 17, 1877.

Interesting Information Elicited from Colonel Pelton.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections have come into possession of the information that the Democratic National Committee were notified immediately after the Presidential election that electoral votes could be had by paying for them. Colonel Pelton to-day, in answer to a question, admitted that this was a fact, but that he could not now name the parties who addressed him on the subject. More definite knowledge, it is hoped, will be obtained by Friday, when Pelton will be more closely interrogated on the subject. This committee have managed their investigation with unusual skill, and have been successful in bringing to light a mass of information showing how the Democrats managed their affairs.

Ferry Retains His Seat in the Chair.

Senator Ferry was to-day warmly congratulated by his fellow-Senators, who looked upon his re-election to the Senate with undisguised pleasure. He says that he has no present intention of resigning the Presidency of the Senate.

Reductions in River and Harbor Appropriations.

A statement has been made that the Committee on Commerce have decided not to report a River and Harbor bill this session because of the large fund remaining in the Treasury to the credit of these improvements, under the distribution of moneys made under the President's order, after the passage of the bill of the present fiscal year. The committee consider all these amounts still to the credit of the improvements mentioned in the bill of last year, and a new bill will be reported with reduced amounts, but designed to continue all the works through the next year.

Captain Howgate's Plan Indorsed.

A resolution of the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce approving the proposed appropriation of $50,000 by the General Government to aid in the establishment of a temporary colony, for the purpose of exploration and scientific research at or near the eighty-first degree of north latitude, as proposed by Captain Howgate, of the United States Signal Corps, has been forwarded to the Wisconsin Congressional delegation with a request that they favor the project.

How the Compromise was Reached—Probability of a Prolonged Debate in the Senate.

The committees on counting the electoral vote again met in joint session this morning and resumed their attempts to harmonize the conflicting views upon certain features of the proposition before them. Their efforts, however, were ineffectual and a recess was taken until this afternoon. The opposition came from the Senate committee, and at one time it looked as if any further effort would be a waste of time. The House committee were evidently anxious that something should be done, for to them it was evident that in the absence of some agreement the President of the Senate would assert his constitutional powers supported by precedents and make up the record of the States and count the vote. When the committees resumed their session this afternoon another effort was made to adjust their differences. At this time they succeeded in determining as to the composition of a board of arbitration, which was to consist of five members of each House, to be appointed by their respective presiding officers, and four justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, the latter to select a fifth member of the court. It was proposed that in cases where two sets of returns were presented they should be referred to the board for examination and action, which decision should stand unless reversed by the concurrent action of the two Houses. There was much discussion on this proposition, mainly in the Senate committee, pending which the committee adjourned to meet to-night for further consideration. To-night a direct vote was taken up on the proposition as a whole, when it received six out of seven votes in each committee. The proposition will doubtless be reported to both Houses to-morrow. The Supreme Court judge on the board, it is believed, will be composed of Justices Clifford and Field on the part of the Democrats, and Strong and Miller for the Republicans. The remaining two justices of the court, Justice Davis has been identified with the liberal movement and the rest of the court are Republicans in political affiliations. The views expressed by Senators promise a prolonged debate which may defer action in time to be of service in the count of the vote.

Unfavorable Opinion of the Democratic National Convention.

The members of the Democratic Executive Committee who will meet to morrow night, judging from personal opinions expressed, are averse to holding a national convention at Washington. A movement is on foot to hold the convention at Baltimore. Even this is disapproved. Others say that they can see no possible good to come from a convention.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 17, 1877.

KNOW-NOTHING CONDITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC SECRETARY.

The examination of Colonel Pelton was continued before the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections this morning. He testified in answer to Senator Morton that he knows Smith Weed, of Plattsburg, New York. Weed went to South Carolina after the election. He don't think the Democratic National Committee suggested the mission. He don't know Weed's business and don't know why he went to South Carolina, except to see a fair count. He don't know under what name Weed went to South Carolina, but has no reason to believe he went under any other than his own. He received no dispatch in December last from Hon. Freedom of the C., C. and A. Railroad; has no knowledge of a dispatch sent to him at the National Democratic Committee headquarters in which a question was asked whether the committee would pay $30,000 for an electoral vote. Such a question was asked, but the witness don't know from what source it came. There was a letter received from one of the Northwestern States, not Oregon, saying an electoral vote could be had for money. Senator Morton asked the witness if he had in his possession any letters from Smith Weed. Witness answered that he did not know, as most of the correspondence had been destroyed from time to time. He does not remember receiving a dispatch from Smith Weed, or any other person, saying that the vote of a colored elector in South Carolina could be obtained for money. He thought he would remember, had he received such a dispatch. At this point Colonel Pelton was excused until Friday.

CHANDLER BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

William E. Chandler was asked whether he had knowledge of the dispatch alleged to have been sent by Secretary Chandler, telling Governor Stearns to hold Florida and money and troops would be forthcoming. Before answering this question the witness requested time to consult his clients—Governor Stearns and members of the Canvassing Board. He had not been retained by them regularly with a fee, but it was understood that he was to appear as their counsel. The rest of the examination was unimportant. The committee decided that the answer was insufficient and that there could be no privileged communication between attorney and client as against a committee of the House.

PROPOSITION TO COIN SILVER FOR THE GOVERNMENT IN BELGIUM.

The Director of the Mint at Brussels, Belgium, has made a proposition to coin silver for the United States Government. He states that the mints of Europe are closed against silver and the European market is in a deplorable condition. He thinks that by using his bullion houses in Brussels, Paris and London for purchasing bullion and coining it at his mint great stability would be given to the silver market and the United States would thereby be able to coin trade dollars to an extent sufficient to control the India and China exchanges. He is further of the opinion that the American silver mining interests would also be promoted if his proposition was accepted.

REPORT AGREED UPON BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE—A TRIPARTITE TRIBUNAL RECOMMENDED.

The Senate and House Committees on Counting the Electoral Votes have this evening agreed upon a report which will be signed to-morrow by all the members of both committees except Senator Morton and possibly one Democratic member of the House committee. The tribunal for the decision of the controverted questions will be tripartite, one branch of which will be composed of five justices of the Supreme Court. How these judges are to be selected, or how the Senate and House branches will be constituted, is not known, but it can be positively stated that the element of chance will not enter, in any way, into the formation of the tribunal. Its members are to take a special oath to decide the questions according to the Constitution of the United States and laws made in pursuance thereof. From the ascertained fact that the judiciary branch of the tribunal will be composed of five members, it is inferred that the two branches of Congress will each be represented on it by five of their respective members, but this is only a matter of inference. On inquiry of members of the two committees to-night it is learned that all of them pledged themselves not to speak of the details of the proposed plan, this caution being taken in order that the public might not be misled by verbal statements apart from the exact phraseology of the official report. They say that for the last two weeks the committees of the two Houses, acting either separately or in joint session, have devoted their best energies and judgment, and nearly all their time, to arriving at such an accommodation, that the proceedings have uniformly been marked by courtesy and a patriotic spirit, all striving to allay whatever partisan feeling existed and to promote the public good. They are very hopeful that both political parties and the country at large will be satisfied with the result of their labors. The bill embodying the plan agreed upon will be accompanied by a brief report setting forth the principles upon which it is based and will be presented to both Houses to-morrow, though it will not probably be acted upon immediately. The intelligence that a report has been agreed upon, calculated to satisfy both parties, occasions very general gratification.

NOTES AT THE CAPITAL.

The House Committee on Appropriations are ready to report the Indian bill. It appropriates $4,376,000, or $272,000 less than last year.

The Executive Committee of the Western Union Telegraph Company has been summoned before the Committee on the Powers and Privileges of the House.

A HEAVY FORGERY.

A Forged Check for $64,000 Successfully Negotiated, and the Forger Gets Off with the Money.

NEW YORK, January 17.—The vicinity of Wall street was greatly excited to-day by the report that the Union Trust Company had been defrauded out of $64,000 by a skilled forger. On January 3d a check for the above amount, purporting to have been drawn by the New York Life Insurance Company on the previous day, was presented to the Trust Company, through a banking association, and paid. Yesterday it was discovered to be a forgery. The Morris Franklin, President of the New York Life Insurance Company, makes the following statement of the facts: Yesterday morning, while balancing the bank accounts of the Trust Company, the cashier discovered two checks bearing the same number, one for $64,000, and the other for $64,000, drawn by the New York Life Insurance Company on the Union Trust Company. Upon examining the check for $64,000 it was announced a clever forgery. The officers of the Union Trust Company were notified of the forgery immediately, and the cashier stated that it was presented to him on the 3d day of the month and he, supposing it to be perfectly regular, certified it. After the stranger had accomplished his object, he proceeded to the office of Mr. Max Morwell, broker of Broad street, and purchased $40,000 in gold, and after obtaining the treasure and the difference, less the commission, in currency, he disappeared. The loss will fall upon the Union Trust Company, the officers of which have assured President Franklin that they will make the loss good. The detectives are busily engaged in working up the case.

The following caution appears in the afternoon papers:

The public are cautioned against negotiating our check, No. 10,392, for $9,500 gold on the Bank of New York, certified by the bank, payment having been stopped on account of fraud.

W. T. HATCH & SONS.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Indications for To-Day.—In the Ohio Valley, slight changes in pressure, easterly to southerly winds, generally warmer and partly cloudy weather, and possibly light rains in the Lower Lake region, slight changes in pressure, variable winds, generally warmer and clear weather. In the Middle States, slowly falling or nearly stationary barometer, stationary to rising temperature, generally clear weather, and easterly winds shifting to southerly. The rivers in Western Pennsylvania will rise slowly. The Ohio will probably commence falling at Pittsburgh, but will continue rising and dangerous below.

The rains continue throughout California and the crop prospects are cheering.

A Victoria dispatch says that the Indian difficulty at Chemoines is amicably settled.

The steamships Ohio and Lord Clive, from Liverpool, have arrived at Philadelphia.

The Baltimore City Council has appropriated $10,000 for work for unemployed men in the cleaning of streets.

The "Sons of Vermont" at Chicago celebrated the hundredth anniversary of their State by a supper at the Sherman House last night.

A San Diego dispatch says that recent arrivals from Lower California report all quiet. The filibustering rumors are considered utterly unfounded.

The Coroner's inquest at Ashtabula yesterday brought out additional testimony as to the insufficient bracing of the Ashtabula railway bridge.

The silver disbursements since April 15, 1876, are: For fractional currency redeemed, $16,008,812; on currency, checks and obligations, $10,680,369; total, $26,689,181.

At the session of the Canadian Board of Trade yesterday, delegates from the National Board of Trade of the United States were introduced and invited to take part in the debates.

The separation of the city government of St. Louis from the country, according to the new scheme and charter, is being carried into practical effect, although the question is still before the courts.

Three exceedingly well executed one thousand dollar counterfeit legal tender notes were recently captured by G. W. Reardon, chief of the St. Louis district of the United States Secret Service.

The suspension of Orrin, Benedict & Co., hat manufacturers of New York, with liabilities at $150,000, throws out of employment two hundred and fifty operatives in the factory at Bethel, Conn.

The steamer August Andre, from Antwerp, December 17, for New York, with a valuable cargo, arrived at Halifax harbor yesterday leaky and badly damaged. She will discharge her cargo and repair.

A Jacksonville, Florida, dispatch says: James Gordon Bennett an four friends arrived here this morning by a Macon and Agusta sleeper, and went to the St. James Hotel, but left shortly after and went on board of Astor's yacht.

Sixty-seven thousand dollars was raised on the occasion of Moody's final services in Chicago yesterday, to pay off the debts of the Young Men's Christian Association and for certain other obligations incurred during the services.

The eighth annual convention of the Expressmen's Mutual Benefit Association was held in Baltimore yesterday morning. Delegates are in attendance from all sections. The association paid $8,390 to families of deceased members for twenty-seven deaths.

Several men who served in Baltimore as United States deputy marshals at the Presidential election, were arrested by order of Sheriff Mills, on a capais issued by Judge Brown, of the Criminal Court, to answer an indictment for assault at the polls on the day of the Presidential election, and were committed to jail. Subsequently they were brought before Judge Bond, of the United States Circuit Court, by *habeas corpus*, and released on their own recognizances until Monday next, when a hearing will be had.

The Revere House at Oskosh was destroyed by fire yesterday morning. Loss $225,000; insurance $21,000.

HARRISBURG.

The Pennsylvania Legislature.

Business Done in the Introduction, Reading and Passage of Bills--The Republican Caucus Resolves to Put the Militia on a War Footing.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 17, 1877.

SENATE.

The Senate met at eleven o'clock.

The act repealing the Fallowfield township, Washington county, road law, was reported from the committee favorably.

The following bills were introduced:

By Mr. Gazzam, bill for the relief of B. F. Kennedy, Prothonotary of Allegheny county.

By Mr. St. Clair, the Local Option bill.

By Mr. Jones, bill supplementary to the limitation acts, providing that a failure to prosecute for six years after suit is brought shall be a bar to all actions.

By Mr. Burnett, extending the time for the completion of railroads authorized under special laws.

By Mr. Cooper, supplement to an act providing for the election of trustees to the State normal schools, and regulating their management. It repeals the three-fourths vote on all questions except finance.

The following bills passed third reading:

Providing for printing the Governor's message.

Authorizing the use of dismounted ordnance for the Dauphin and Susquehanna county monuments.

Requiring common pleas judges to charge the jury on particular points of law.

Authorizing the appointment of women as prison inspectors, which was passed by one vote, the Allegheny Senators voting no. The bill will probably be reconsidered.

Prohibiting the use of fire and light on vessels where petroleum is stored.

Augustus R. Renneman and Frederick J. Blakely, of Allegheny city, James O. Kingsbury, of Centerville, and E. Newton, of East Brady, were appointed notaries.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

Among the bills reported affirmatively were the following:

Submitting to a vote the proposition to remove the capital.

An act relating to judgments and stay of execution.

A bill relating to the sale of unseated lands for taxes.

Authorizing courts of common pleas to fix the number of days within which defendants shall be commanded to appear after the service of writ of summons.

An act giving priority in the trial of claims for wages to manual labor.

The following bills were introduced:

By Mr. Long, of Allegheny, authorizing passenger railways in second class cities to use steam or other motive power, with the consent of local councils.

By Mr. Fulton, supplemental act for the better protection of the wages of mechanics and others.

By Mr. Means, making an appropriation for normal schools.

By Mr. Stewart, of Lawrence, a local option bill.

By Mr. Gross, prohibiting banks from paying interest on deposits.

By Mr. Wise, fixing salaries and number of town officials.

By Mr. Shonk, authorizing the attachment of wages of persons indebted for boarding.

By Mr. Mapes, of Venango, forbidding the employment of females in saloons.

By Mr. Dickey, taxing dogs and protecting sheep.

By Mr. Billingsley, protecting miners and dealers from fraud in weighing bituminous coal.

By Mr. Walker, of Allegheny, providing for the issue of five hundred dollars warrant to each property manumed artillery battery.

By Mr. Potts, protecting laborers, contractors, etc., on railroads.

By Mr. Mowry, of Lawrence, regulating the boundary line between Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia.

By Mr. Hill, of Allegheny, appropriating $2,500 for the Morgana Reform School for salaries, insurance and completion of the buildings.

Action of the Republican Caucus.

The Republican caucus unanimously resolved to put the State militia on a war footing, by appropriating one million dollars, or as much thereof as is necessary, when the emergency arises and the call for aid is made by the proper authorities. The whole subject was referred to a committee of nine with power to act. The committee consists of five Senators and four Representatives, which will include Senators Newmyer and Herr, with Speaker Myers, the Republican Long, Huhn and Morgan, of Lawrence.

The Governor's reception will be held to-morrow evening.

Another Report of the Republican Caucus.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 17.—A caucus of the Republican members of the Senate and House was held this evening. A committee of three Senators and four Representatives, including the Speakers of the Senate and House, was appointed last week to consider the propriety of introducing a bill into the Legislature to place the militia of the State upon a war footing. They held a conference with Governor Hartranft and finally decided that it was not expedient to offer any such bill to the Legislature at present, nor to make any specific appropriation for the purpose at this time, but simply to await the course of events and the manifestations of the Governor in his judgment should think it necessary to call on the Legislature by message or otherwise.

The report of the committee was adopted, but it was additionally agreed that a committee consisting of four members of the House and two members of the Senate should be appointed, to whom the bill making an appropriation for the reorganization of the militia should be referred, and who should hold it subject to the course of events, taking no action thereon unless necessary.

POLITICAL.

DEMOCRATIC STATE NOMINATIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

CONCORD, January 17.—The Democrats in State Convention to-day, nominated Daniel Marcri for Governor. Thomas J. Dinsmore was nominated for Railroad Commissioner. After adopting the usual resolutions, the convention adjourned.

The Republicans in the First and Second Congressional districts have nominated Gilman Marston and Jacob Briggs.

THE ILLINOIS SENATORIAL CONTEST.

SPRINGFIELD, January 17.—The second ballot in joint convention for United States Senator to-day was as follows: Logan, 98 votes; Palmer, 88; Anderson, 7; Davis, 8; Lathrop, Parish and Washburne, one each. The third ballot resulted the same way except that Logan received one vote less, and Washburne one more. On the fourth ballot Logan received 98 votes, Palmer 89, Anderson 7, Davis 7, Washburne 1, Parish 1. Fifth ballot: Logan 100, Palmer 88, Anderson 7, Davis 7, Parish 1, Haines 1. The sixth ballot was the same as the fifth. Seventh ballot: Logan 100, Palmer 89, Anderson 7, Davis 6, Haines 1, Parish 1.

TWO MORE BALLOTS ON THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATORSHIP.

BOSTON, January 17.—The first ballot for United States Senator in joint convention of the Legislature to day was as follows: Boutwell 95, Hoar 85, Dawes 49, Bullock 4, Seelye 4, Sanford 1, Wells 1. The second ballot, which gave Hoar 95, Boutwell 93 and Abbott 62, the joint session adjourned till to-morrow.

THE NEBRASKA SENATORSHIP—SECOND BALLOT.

OMAHA, January 17.—The second ballot for United States Senator was, Hitchcock 27, Crounse 12, Saunders 15, Briggs 12, Savage 25, Mr. Anderson 7, the rest scattering. The Legislature adjourned.

MACDOUGAL DECLINES AND SPEAR IS NOMINATED.

Congressman MacDougal to-day formally declined the appointment of Commissioner of Patents tendered him by the President, whereupon the President decided to nominate for the position Ellis H. Spear, of Maine, formerly Deputy Commissioner.

GOVERNOR GARLAND DECLARED ELECTED TO THE ARKANSAS SENATORSHIP.

LITTLE ROCK, January 17.—The General Assembly at noon to-day canvassed the vote cast yesterday for United States Senator. Ex-Governor Garland was declared elected for the ensuing six years.

The California Mine—Gratifying Exhibit.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 17.—The annual meeting of the California Mining Company took place to-day. Those who anticipated a scene similar to that enacted at the recent Consolidated Virginia meeting were disappointed, as the meeting was purely formal. The report of the Superintendent was a gratifying exhibit. The mine produced during the year nearly 129,000 tons of ore, or 127,000 tons reduced, yielding $13,400,000 in bullion, 73¾ per cent. of the assay. The value of gold and silver in the bullion was nearly equal. On the 1,400 foot level, connection has been made with the Opher, securing ventilation. The ore body extends above the level a distance yet unknown, but is extensive and valuable. In the 1,500 foot level much ore has been extracted. Both ends of the level show large and valuable ore bodies.

THE NEW ORLEANS MUDDLE.

Danger of a Collision Past—Letter from General Augur—A Resolution Against Packard.

NEW ORLEANS, January 17.—The effect of the instructions from the War Department to General Augur to preserve the *status quo* of both parties until the reports of the Congressional committees are received, is plainly visible to-day. All danger of collision is regarded as past, for the present at least.

A letter is published to-day from General Augur in reply to a letter from Governor Packard correcting some statements made by the latter in regard to General Augur's course, and showing that he has acted throughout in accordance with the instructions of the War Department not to interfere, except to quell actual disturbances and to preserve the *status quo*.

The Republican Legislature did not ballot for United States Senator to-day. In the House Barrett and Kennedy, who had gone over to the Democrats, were expelled. The Democratic Legislature balloted for Senator without a choice.

In the Democratic Senate Eustis introduced a resolution setting forth that one Packard, falsely assuming to be Governor, had by means of a scandalous and libelous publication, purporting to be a proclamation, attacked the General Assembly and the lawful authorities and calculated to bring them into contempt, etc; therefore, be it resolved, that the Committee on Judiciary be instructed to inquire whether said Packard, by authorizing said scandalous and libelous publication, has not committed a breach of privileges of this body, and what means, if any, should be taken to punish said Packard for said contempt, and to maintain the dignity and authority of this body. So ordered. The House bill in reference to the protection of the colored people was passed unanimously.

IMPORTANT DECISION.

What Constitutes Subjects of Taxation.

In the case of the City of Philadelphia against Thomas Cochran et al., Board of Revision of Taxes, and Peter A. B. Widener, Treasurer, involving the power of the State to require the adding of fifteen thousand watches to the assessment of taxable personal property in Philadelphia, the Supreme Court delivered an opinion, deciding that neither the old Board of Revenue Commissions nor its substitute, the present State Board, has power to add to the number of watches returned as assessed. Such an order is founded on no evidence, and no return from which the existence of other subjects of taxation can be legally determined. The proper purpose of the constitution of the Revenue Board is to equalize taxation by revising the valuations of the several counties, and thereby to prevent injustice to some by the undervaluations of others. But the subjects of taxation, whether watches, horses, or farms, are those only which are ascertained and returned in due process of assessment, which ascertains their number and ownership. To add so many thousand watches, carriages, or other subjects not found and returned by the assessors is to require the

The Commercial.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1877.

PRESIDENT GOWEN, of the Reading Railroad, is seeking new outlets abroad for anthracite coal. He has made experimental shipments to Italy and South America, and if they prove profitable, the trade will be vigorously pushed.

ONE of Secretary CHANDLER'S telegraphic dispatches to Florida, during the late campaign, troubles the *Post* dreadfully. Considering, however, that it was simply a warning against devilish Democratic devices, the indignation of our contemporary is perfectly natural.

WATTERSON'S interest in TILDEN'S inauguration is accounted for on principal. The latter is reported as holding a heavy mortgage on the *Courier-Journal* building, and the Knight of sherry and champagne glory is fearful that collection will be pressed unless his master, Usufruct, gets the great office.

IF Chairman HEWITT, of the National Democratic Committee, should execute his threat to resign rather than call a national bulldozing convention in Washington on the 14th of February, the vacancy thus created ought by all means to be filled by the editor of the *Post*. He is for "wah" to the handle and the knife to the hilt.

THE Jews, it is stated by the London correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial*, are flocking to Palestine and buying up all the real estate they can get their hands on. This is, probably, the first tangible result of *Daniel Deronda's* visit to the East, with his bride, of which we have heard nothing since the novel of that ilk was issued.

THE struggle for the Kansas Senatorial succession is very animated; but, thank Heaven, the Confederate Democracy have no abiding place on the free prairies of JOHN BROWN'S State. Whoever of the candidates may happen to be elected, he will give no uncertain sound on the vital questions of progress, public schools, human freedom and all the other priceless boons that are now again threatened by the revivified Democracy of 1860.

AN Alderney bull-calf that was so weak and puny that the manager of his farm said it could not live, was last summer put by General PLEASANTON under a roof lighted by blue glass, and in twenty-four hours he could stand alone and drink milk, while in four months he was a strong, vigorous animal. Well-wishers of *Dogberry* COCHRAN, whose latest ambition is to annihilate those pestiferous agencies of modern civilization, the telegraph companies, may discover a profitable hint in this.

COLONEL MOSBY has been obliged to leave Virginia on account of social ostracism, because he is a Union man at heart and a Republican; the Legislature of that State has restored the lash and whipping post which were abolished by the Republicans, and the Supreme Court of Appeals has just rendered two decisions, one overturning a decision of Judge UNDERWOOD, under the confiscation laws of the United State., and the other sustaining a confiscation of property under the Confederate Government, during the war. Such is Bourbon progress.

COCHRAN is at it again. He fought the Centennial, last year, with all the vigor of *Don Quixote's* attack on the windmills, and he has now distinguished himself again, by proposing to use the power of Congress to smite down the Western Union Telegraph Company, because the company will not permit Congressmen to fish and pry among the private telegrams of citizens. The House did not respond to this proposition with any alacrity, and poor COCHRAN subsided instantly into his usual insignificance. And since he is so early done for, he wonder what he was begun for.

HOWEVER easy the Democratic managers may have found it to reconcile the Oregon infamy with their own consciences, their attempt to blind the perception or to stultify the conscience of the people as to the nature of the act, has proved utterly futile. The healthy common sense of the people brushes contemptuously aside the legal quibbles by which they attempt to justify their perfidy. So will it be with any one who so befogs himself with Congressional precedents as to find excuse for directly or indirectly thwarting the will of the people, as it has been expressed in the recent Presidential election.

THE municipal machine in New York city threatens to come to a standstill from lack of funds to operate it. The taxes, it is complained, are coming in dreadfully slow, while there remains yet unpaid on last year's taxes nearly $7,000,000. Besides this sum over $5,000,000 are due from previous years. The trouble is owing to the decline of real estate and the failure of tenants to pay rent. There are a vast number of unoccupied houses in that city, and the owners are unable to pay the taxes. In many instances where property is heavily mortgaged owners are letting the property go, and are leaving the city and the holders of the mortgages to settle the taxes and interest as they see fit. A great many sales of property will soon take place for taxes unpaid in 1873 and 1874.

THE action of the Senate committee on the Silver bill is equivalent to its defeat at this session. The bill has been reported back by the committee without recommendation, and placed on the calendar; but, while this puts it where it can be called up at any time, the notice given by Mr. SHERMAN that he intends to offer an amendment which will render the bill of no effect, indicates a purpose to obstruct its passage by prolonging the discussion upon it until the session ends. There is no way of forcing a vote in the Senate; and as the other public business is pressing, there is no probability that the Senate will spend any great length of time in discussing such a bill. We are sorry that this is so, as we regard the policy of the Silver bill as an element in the process of successful recovery from the present business depression; but the next Congress will afford a better chance for it, and the friends of a double metallic basis for our currency must possess their souls in patience.

ITALY contemplates the adoption of a number of improvements and reforms, all of them highly desirable, but, it is to be feared, not all equally practicable. Among them is that of making education obligatory, which is perhaps desirable in view of the seventeen millions of those unable to read and write, though the difficulty of getting competent teachers, and the additional expense to be incurred, may be serious obstacles in the way. Other important propositions are a greater decentralization of the Government, improvement of the army and navy, and also of the condition of State employees, extending the electoral franchise, and a new adjustment of the relations between the State and the Vatican, so that the privileges granted the latter may not interfere with public liberties or the national sovereignty. Another step in the right direction is the proposed liquidation of the public debt of the country. If the present ministry can free Italy of its heavy debt it will deserve the thanks of all.

THE New York correspondent of the Philadelphia *Ledger* says that before PELTON, the private secretary of TILDEN, started for Washington, the Great Unelected boasted that the testimony of the former before the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections "would demonstrate the utter hopelessness of the endeavor of the Republicans to make anything out of that to his [TILDEN'S] prejudices." Ah, indeed! But the committee traced that $8,000 intrigue money quite as near to TILDEN as the MAREN money was traced to BELKNAP, and as near as the Credit Mobelier stock was traced to BROOKS. It was the latter's son-in-law in whose hands the Credit Mobelier stock stopped, and it was to TILDEN'S nephew and favorite that $8,000 was traced, and traced thence to Oregon, to CRONIN, and to the corrupt usurpation of Oregon's electoral college. Such an exposure would have ruined Governor HAYES or General GRANT, and in the estimation of every honest man it will ruin TILDEN, also.

THE MILITARY BILL

We publish, to-day, a copy of the bill now before the Legislature for the better organization of the military of this State.

This bill contemplates such an efficient organization of the National Guard as will put it in a condition to be moved to any point, on the shortest possible notice. It appropriates a million of dollars to pay the expenses of moving the troops, should they be called out in any emergency; but, of course, if the emergency does not occur the expense will not be entailed. The appropriation, therefore, is a contingent one, and not absolute; and it is much better that it should be made, even if never used, than that the emergency demanding its use should happen and find us unprepared for it.

In 1861, when the rebellion broke out, Pennsylvania was found totally defenseless, and with nothing ready to put things in better condition. The result was an extra session of the Legislature, a hasty arming of the military, a bungling attempt at clothing them properly, and a loan of three millions. Had the rebellion been anticipated, as it might have been, all this haste and bungling might have been averted. There would then have been time for deliberation and the fullest attention to details, which would have saved us much of the after shame which grew out of the hurry of an instant equipment.

It is proposed, now, to avoid all the blunders of 1861, and be fully prepared for whatever may happen, by attending to all the preliminary arrangements before any emergency shall overtake us. We shall save much expense by such a precaution, as well as be in a position to assert the power of the State at the very moment when the necessity for it happens. The State is always the most formidable when she is the best prepared.

But what, we may be asked, is the necessity for such preparation at this time? We answer that the necessity is to be found in the repeated threats that have been made of a resort to force in settling the Presidential question. We are menaced, in fact, with another rebellion. The old spirit of resistance to the Government and the laws has been appealed to; sectional bitterness and animosity have been revived; all the bad blood still rankling in the veins of those who were vanquished in 1865 has been stirred up; and there is imminent danger of a collision that may, if not promptly met, involve the country again in the horrors of civil war. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and the bill we publish to-day is a preventive measure that may save us from the expenditure of untold millions hereafter.

We trust, therefore, that our party friends in the Legislature will see the wisdom of passing this bill, not as a party measure, but with party votes if the Democrats are so unwise and unpatriotic as to oppose it. Governor HARTRANFT is a man in whom the utmost confidence may be placed, and no fears need be entertained that he will use the power this bill gives him until the occasion arises for it. We can rely upon his coolness and discretion for using his power wisely and prudently; and if the emergency which is guarded against in this bill should never arise, or should be frustrated by the preparation made to meet it, as we feel sure it will be, the people of the State will have reason to be grateful for their escape from a danger which cannot be overrated. The prudence and caution of the Keystone State, in preparing for the worst while hoping for the best, will do more than all things else to avert a calamity which will be certain to overtake us if we fail to take timely measures for its prevention.

THOSE whose memories retain a recollection of the events of 1871 will, many of them, be able to recall the fact of the murder of OCTAVIUS CATTO, an innocent, unoffending colored man, upon the streets of Philadelphia, on the day of the October election, in that year. The city of Philadelphia was then under Democratic control. The Mayor and police were all Democrats; and as the murderer was a Democrat, he was, of course, allowed to escape. CATTO was shot down solely because he was a colored man. He had done nothing and was doing nothing to provoke an assault upon him; and his murder was, consequently, one of those inexcusable slaughters to which men are sometimes prompted under the influence of religious or political prejudice. The Philadelphia *Press* says:

> All lovers of law and order will be glad to learn that Frank Kelly, who shot and killed Octavius Catto, a respectable colored man, in an election riot on October 10, 1871, has at last been captured and is now on his way to this city under strong guard. Since Kelly's escape the police have been on a sharp look-out for the murderer, but in spite of widely circulated descriptions of the man and an offer of $1,000 reward by the City Councils for his capture, he was again heard of until last November, when Chief of Police Jones learned through private sources that Kelly was in Cincinnati, under arrest for participation in an election riot. The Chief telegraphed immediately to that city, and received the unwelcome news that his man had escaped. Kelly was then traced to Chicago, where he was lost sight of until December 29, when the Chief discovered that the fugitive had been arrested and was held in custody for illegal voting. Some delay in obtaining the necessary papers was occasioned in Harrisburg, but yesterday the Chief received a telegram from Detective Tryon saying that Kelly had been fully identified, and he would arrive with his prisoner to-day. This important capture will doubtless cause no little excitement among those who remember the details of his crime, and much interest will be felt in the ultimate disposition of the case.
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> The terrible scenes of the election on the 10th of October, 1871, the day on which Catto was brutally murdered, will be vividly remembered by all residents of the portion of the city in which riots took place. This was the first general election at which the colored people voted—the police force being Democratic—and the occasion was marked by intimidation and open violence, finally resulting in riots of a most serious character.
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> The murder which excited the greatest public interest at the time was that of Major Octavius V. Catto, who had just closed his school—the institute for colored youth—at No. 921 Shippen street, and was passing down South street, between Eighth and Ninth, when he was approached and insulted by a white man supposed to be Frank Kelly. Professor Catto put his hand behind him as if to draw a pistol, when a car came up and he passed down the street a few paces. Here he was accosted by the same man, who levelled a pistol at his head, when a woman called out: "Come in here, Professor, or you will be shot." Catto then attempted to cross the street, when the assassin fired three times, the first ball taking effect in the left breast, passing through the heart, and the other ball struck him in the shoulder.
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> Major Octavius V. Catto, the murdered man, was born in Charleston, S. C., February 22, 1839, his father being a Presbyterian minister. When he was five years of age his father removed to Philadelphia, where the martyred man was educated. In 1870 he was elected superintendent of the colored schools of Washington. In the Pennsylvania State militia at the time of the murder he held the rank of major on the staff of General Wagner. He was engaged to be married to Miss Caroline Le Count, a lady teacher of this city, on whom the sudden blow fell with crushing weight.
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> The murder caused the greatest excitement at the time, and although there was strong proof that Kelly was the murderer, little was well known in the city, he succeeded in making his escape. It has been often alleged that some of the Democratic authorities at the time were not at all anxious to secure his arrest.

THE severity of this winter is remarkable for its unbroken length and its extent since it reaches far into the South, where cold weather, snows and ice are seldom known. In all the Northern, Middle and Western States the rivers, streams and lakes have been more or less ice-bound, and in many instances much damage has been done by the jamming of the huge masses against the levees and in the harbors where the shipping is blockaded. When Professor Proctor declared that the sun's heat would last but 20,000,000 of years longer, he had no foresight as it regarded this winter, and the absence of that luminary's caloric from this part of the terrestrial globe for such a lengthy period. At the rate at which old Sol has lost his heat hereabouts for the past six weeks, one is tempted to believe that the worthy Professor made a miscalculation, and that he is neither a "prophet nor the son of a prophet."—*Philadelphia North American.*

The above is in accordance with the general idea that this is an exceptional winter, and that its like was never witnessed before. Yet in 1832 the winter lasted, unbroken, from November, 1831, until the succeeding February, and we had another unbroken winter in 1856, which began on Christmas, 1855, and lasted until the following March.

THE joint committee of the two Houses of Congress, appointed to devise some scheme for settling the Presidential question that will satisfy everybody, is still busy at that useless work, and the members are still exercising their ingenuity in attempts to outwit each other. So far, they have hit upon nothing except a scheme to decide the matter by lot; and as they will, after all, be compelled to fall back upon the plan prescribed in the Constitution, they may as well at once give up fooling and abandon a job which is too difficult for them because the Constitution stands in the way of anything they can propose.

The only plan which has been made public, as discussed by the committee, is to refer the electoral votes from the States which have sent up double returns to a committee of five from each House. This committee, when it meets, is to be reduced to nine members by drawing lots to decide which of the ten shall be withdrawn, and the remaining nine, with the four oldest members of the Supreme Court, are to be the arbitrators to settle the questions at issue.

This is simply settling a grave constitutional question by lottery. If the Democrats should win the chance of the lot, they would have five of the nine commissioners; and the four oldest Supreme Judges are CLIFFORD, MILLER, FIELD and DAVIS. MILLER is the only Republican in this lot; but even if Judge DAVIS should vote with him, the Democrats would still have a majority of the arbitrators. It would take three of these four Supreme Judges to give the Republicans a majority of the committee, and as Messrs. CLIFFORD and FIELD are both well-known Democrats, who could never see their way clear out of the Democratic fog, the committee would be Democratic beyond all doubt.

We protest against all such methods of settling a plain question of right and wrong. The lot is not a proper arbiter in the settlement of so grave a question as the Presidency, and a resort to it, now, is to abandoned everything to mere chance. The only safe course for the Republicans is to stand firmly by their ground that, under the Constitution, the President of the Senate is alone qualified to open and count the certificates of electoral votes.

AN error occurred in our telegraphic dispatch from Harrisburg as printed in yesterday's COMMERCIAL. Among the appointments by the Governor that of JOSHUA W. JONES, Superintendent of Public *Schools*," was announced. Mr. JONES has filled the office of Superintendent of Public Printing for some years, and has no doubt been reappointed to that place, the word *schools* having been inadvertently substituted for *printing*.

THE history of the BENNETT-MAY affair is not creditable to BENNETT. He was first cowhided by MAY; next he challenged MAY, thus violating the laws against dueling; then he shot at MAY without hitting him and declined to take a second shot; and, finally, he sneaked off to Europe like a fugitive from justice. If any one can string together a worse series of disgraces than this, BENNETT will doubtless be glad to see him, or, at least, to sympathize with him.

THE New York *Herald* says that Mr. JORDAN'S testimony as to PELTON'S agency in getting the $8,000 check for Oregon "is too humiliating for belief." It is something new to be told that facts which are humiliating are therefore not to be believed.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Vermont will have five centennial anniversaries this year.

The exports of American hardware to England are constantly increasing.

The corn crop of Kansas last year, at twenty-five cents a bushel, would be worth $20,000,000.

The Idaho papers are pressing the Legislature of that Territory to pass a woman suffrage bill.

Boston is agitating for a produce exchange, and thirty firms have joined in an effort to produce one.

Moody's Chicago sermons and prayer meeting talks have been published in book form under the title of "Great Joy."

Fresh discoveries of lead have lately been made in the Black Hills. The lead is found chiefly in the bodies of gold seekers.

Hoosier progress. Indiana proposes to establish a State Polytechnical Institute, to include metallurgy, mining, modeling and architecture.

Boston has a remarkable preacher who last week presented his church with $1,000, which he voluntarily deducted from his salary in consideration of the hard times.

Dr. Schliemann undertook the excavation of Mycenæ under a pure enthusiasm for Homer, which is a refreshing proof that fine sentiment has not yet ceased to move men.

There is just now an extraordinary outburst of activity in literary enterprise in England, which is all the more surprising on account of the general commercial depression.

The New York cities of Troy, Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo are waking up to their burdens of debt. The latter city carries a load of $7,551,076, $423,785 of it made last year.

In some portions of Tennessee, where the mercury has not become inured to the cold, the thermometers have indicated as low as twenty degrees below zero several times this winter.

In Brooklyn persons of the most conflicting religious sentiments have this year formed a bond of union for administering charitable relief, and are working harmoniously together.

A Massachusetts Catholic priest has just been removed from his church because he has filed a petition in bankruptcy, no Catholic priest ever having been guilty of the offense before.

A gigantic lawsuit is threatened over the Flagstaff mine, one of the best in Utah. It is close to the Emma mine, and has many features as to its sale to the English, etc., similar to that noted property.

There is a glut of butter in the New York market, but a good deal of it is adulterated with animal fat, and instead of going into the stomachs of poor people it ought to be considered the soapmaker's fat.

How rapidly do public sensations lose their power. The Brooklyn Theater and the Ashtabula bridge are now half forgotten, while both the death of Vanderbilt and the May–Bennett duel are getting already stale.

This is the severest winter that New York has seen since 1857. The New York Central Railroad has had great difficulty in keeping its four tracks open for the past fortnight, and forty miles of freight trains are now blockaded between Buffalo and Albany.

The shipbuilding yards on the Clyde during the past year launched 204,770 tons, which is under that of 1875 by 23,430, and 62,000 tons below the aggregate for 1874, and 56,700 tons below that for 1873. The vessels launched were 266, against 276 in 1875, 325 in 1874, and 194 in 1873.

In no country in the world are there so many land owners as in France, there being over 5,000,000 peasant land proprietors. This makes a spirit of independence and begets thrift. Everybody pays taxes, being in some cases as low as one per cent. a year. It is in this way that France procures its large revenues.

Upon the foot of every programme there should be printed a diagram of the theater or hall in which a performance is taking place, and upon these diagrams every means of egress from the building should be distinctly marked. This would make every theater goer acquainted with the exits and prove of inestimable value in case of a panic or fire.

FOREWARNED IS FOR ARMED.

Plucking the Flower Safely from the Nettle Danger.

Text of the Bill for the Better Organization of the Military of Pennsylvania.

The following is the text of the bill for the better organization of the military of this State:

SECTION 1. Be it enacted, etc., That the Governor shall be and is hereby authorized and requested to tender to the Government of the United States the services of the National Guard of Pennsylvania for the preservation of the public peace at the National capital on the day of the inauguration of the next President of the United States, or at any time previous or subsequent to the said day when the President of the United States may require the presence and aid of armed men for said purpose.

SEC. 2. That if in the opinion of the Governor the forces of the National Guard are insufficient for the purpose aforesaid, he shall be and is hereby authorized to call for and organize a force of volunteer soldiers sufficient for the emergency, who shall be organized, armed, equipped and officered as the National Guard are organized, armed, equipped and officered under existing laws. The Governor shall appoint all officers necessary for said volunteer forces and shall have authority to prescribe and enforce all regulations necessary for their organization government, discipline and pay. They shall be assembled at such time and place as the Governor may direct; mustered into the service of the State of Pennsylvania, organized and held subject to the requisition of the President of the United States for the purposes aforesaid; and for the purpose of organizing, equipping, arming, paying and transporting said volunteers, the sum of one million of dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act is hereby appropriated, to be paid by the State Treasurer out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 3. Should the ordinary revenues of the State be insufficient to meet the expenditures authorized by this act, the Governor is hereby authorized to borrow money sufficient for the purposes thereof, by temporary loans based on the faith of the Commonwealth, at a rate of interest not exceeding six per centum. Such loans shall be negotiated by the Governor at such times and in such amounts not to exceed the amount herein appropriated, as the object and purposes hereinbefore stated may require. The certificates of loan shall be signed by the State Treasurer and Secretary of the Commonwealth, and countersigned by the Governor and made payable at such time or terms as the Governor may direct. All expenditures under this act shall be paid upon the warrant of the Governor upon bills properly presented, authenticated and approved by him.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

Its Faithful Portrait Drawn By Mr. William Lloyd Garrison.

In his letter, read at the late convention of colored citizens of Rhode Island, Mr. William Lloyd Garrison says:

> This is another dark period in American history. Fiery portents are in the sky, and thunders are uttering their voices. Masquerading is in the service of loyalty and liberty *par excellence*, rampant sedition and bloody usurpation stalk unwhipped of justice at the South, overthrowing all constitutional safeguards, perpetrating all manner of atrocities upon those whose enfranchisement was intended as their protecting shield, making malignant proscription and murderous outlawry the methods to hold absolute dominion, standing with the deadly shotgun in hand at the cross-roads to prevent colored voters reaching the polls except at the peril of their lives, stuffing the ballot-boxes to any extent deemed necessary to outnumber by actual count the votes legally cast, and defiantly proclaiming that the administration of public affairs must be exclusively in the hands of the whites. It is a mocking evasion to say that these scenes of terrorism are witnessed only in certain sections where the relative political strength of the whites and blacks is nearly equal, and that "order" prevails wherever the whites are strongly in the ascendant numerically; for the methods of intimidation and repression vary according to local condition and essentially in Virginia, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, Mississippi and Louisiania, "Order reigns in Warsaw," but that means omnipresent and omnipotent absolutism. And "Freedom shrieked when Kosciusko fell." Yes, the triumphant Democratic administration, at this hour, there would be no recognition of any other than "a solid South" of Tilden and Hendricks, and at that call what jubilant yells would resound throughout rebeldom! The colored people are justified in regarding the Democratic party as their relentless enemy—at all times, under all circumstances, in every issue and to the full extent of its supremacy. Ruled by the slave power while slavery existed, ever ready to make any concessions demanded by its sympathy with the rebellion from the time of the firing upon Fort Sumter until the surrender of Lee, opposing every measure necessary to the success of the loyal cause, condemning alike the proclamation of emancipation and the constitutional amendments in furtherance of the rights of all classes—it still retains its base subserviency to the South; and, deaf as an adder, it will not hear; blind as a bat, it will not see; insensible as a stone, it will not acknowledge anything of wrong done to Southern freedmen, but treats with levity and contempt every statement made by them concerning the manifold sufferings they are fated to endure. It has not one drop of democratic blood coursing in its veins; but as religious imposture steals the livery of the court of heaven to serve the devil in, so this party, professing to be animated by the spirit of genuine democracy, is as shameless in its recreancy as it is hypocritical in its claim. If the Republican party has not done all that could be desired to secure fair treatment for the colored population at the South, it certainly has been owing not to a lack of intention or disposition so much as to the formidable difficulties that have stood in the way, in consequence of the divided state of popular sentiment. Politically speaking, it presents incomparably the best record of any antecedent party in power. It has carried all the great measures to emancipate the enslaved and establish freedom and equality throughout all the land; and, except trivial cases of a seeming lack of backbone among some of its professed members to the contrary, its face is still to the foe, and the hope of a change for the better for the South lies in its continual administration of the National Government. Happily, nothing is so bad as was the old slave system. There is a bright as well as a dark side to contemplate. God still reigns, and justice shall yet be done. Be not despondent, but hopeful to the end. Faithfully yours,
>
> WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.

PERSONAL.

A great grandson of Tecumseh, the Shawnee Chief, is lecturing in some small Kentucky towns. Captain Hobbs is his name, but he is better known as "Comanche Jim."

Alexander H. Stephens, for the first time in his life, has had a hemorrhage from the lungs. It does not seem as if there was blood enough in him to withstand many hemorrhages. He is so wrinkled, toothless, flaccid, palsied, pale, that there does not appear to be a drop of blood in him to spare.

A man who stole a ride in a freight car over the Union Pacific Railroad from Shell creek to the fork of the Platte, in 1867, wrote to the general ticket agent of the road the other day stating the fact and promising that he would pay his fare as soon as he should be informed of the amount. The bill was made out for $21 50, without interest, and forwarded to the writer.

Besides Viscount Maidstone, another Earl's son had just enlisted as a private in the British army. He has joined the ranks of the Twenty-first Regiment of Life Guards as a trooper, because it is said that doubts were ascertained as to his being able to pass the necessary examination for an officer's commission. And determined at all events to be a soldier, he enlisted as a private with the view of winning promotion by good conduct or gallantry in the field.

A Canadian minister thus advertises for a wife: "She must have talent and ability to assist the cause, a gift to sing, ability to weigh an argument, and $2,000 in hard cash." Here is a perfect galaxy of brilliant adornment, and there is little wonder that the aspirant advertises to the whole world that no lady, of any age, certain or uncertain, need ever hope to be the wife of a Canada country parson unless she has the wings of an angel and silver in her pocket.

Here is a new anecdote of Daniel Webster, related by a correspondent of the New York *Evening Post*: One Sunday a student from Andover occupied the pulpit, my father not intending to take any part in the exercises. The young minister got along very well with the opening prayer and the Scripture lesson, but when he had read only a verse or two of the hymn he became confused, stammered and at last his voice failed him entirely. As he seemed to be taken suddenly ill, my father finished the services, preaching an extemporaneous discourse. On the way home in the carriage, the young man, who by that time had quite revived, being pressed for an explanation of his conduct, finally confessed: "Well, sir, it was merely an unaccountable nervousness. Just as I was reading the second stanza of the hymn, a gentleman came into the church and sat down in a broad aisle pew directly before me, fixing such great, staring black eyes upon me that I was frightened out of my wits!" Until he was then told, he did not know that Daniel Webster was a member of the congregation or an inhabitant of the town.

S. M. Pettengill & Co.,

Advertising Agents,

37 Park Row, New York,

Desire to Call the Attention of Business Men, who wish to reach the Reading Public, to the following

FACTS:

1. They have been in the Advertising business for nearly thirty years, and given it constant attention and study during that time.
2. They have had, and continue to have, cordial business relations with all the newspapers and other periodicals in the United States and Canada.
3. Their record with all these publications is one of fair treatment, honorable dealing and prompt settlements.
4. In consequence of this, they can always have advertisements inserted at the publisher's *lowest rates*.
5. They are so acquainted with the entire press of the country that they can select the *best mediums* for any given purpose.
6. Having done advertising for all kinds of business, and noted the results to their customers, they possess valuable suggestions as to the *size, style and position* which will make the most effective advertisement for the object to be attained.
7. Having frequent orders for a large number of papers, they can, in most cases, get the work done for *less cost* than the advertiser would have to pay if he sent the order direct.
8. They examine all papers, note all omissions or irregularities, secure the strict fulfillment of every stipulation of the order, and submit full files for the inspection of the advertiser.
9. They give the advertiser the full benefit of the facilities and of their supervision *without charge*, a commissions being paid by the publishers.
10. They submit estimates for any given list of papers, or for properly covering any given district.
11. For a systematic working up of any large enterprise, they assist in the preparation of circulars, pamphlets and general reading matter, in addition to newspaper advertising.

They invite a call from any parties who contemplate advertising in any way or for any amount.

S. M. PETTENGILL & CO.,
37 Park Row, New York.
701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Centennial Grounds, Philadelphia.
10 State Street, Boston.

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,

No. 61 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh.

CHARTERED IN 1862.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.—George A. Berry, President; John Scott, Jas. Park, Jr., Vice Presidents. A. Bradley, J. L. Graham. A. S. Bell, Wm. K. Nimick, John S. Dilworth, F. Hahn, G. Follansbee. Robert C. Schmertz.
Chas. G. Milnor, Secretary and Treasurer.
SOLICITOR—John H. Bailey.

DISSOLUTION.

DISSOLUTION.

The partnership heretofore existing between F. F. FARRER, R. H. EMERSON and C. W. FARRER, known as the PITTSBURGH ACID WORKS, was dissolved by mutual consent August 1, 1876, R. H. EMERSON retiring.

F. F. FARRER,
R. H. EMERSON,
C. W. FARRER.

The business will be continued by F. F. FARRER, C. W. FARRER and G. B. LITTLEFIELD, under the style of the PITTSBURGH ACID WORKS.

F. F. FARRER,
C. W. FARRER,
G. B. LITTLEFIELD.

DISSOLUTION.

The partnership existing between JAMES DICKSON and GEO. W. McKIM, under the style of THE McKIM MANUFACTURING COMPANY, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. All persons indebted to them are requested to make payment to JAMES DICKSON, who will use the firm name in liquidation.

JAMES DICKSON,
GEO. W. McKIM.

Pittsburgh, January 12, 1877.

The business of manufacturing will be continued by JOHN F. BUDKE and others, under the style of THE McKIM SHEET IRON, KEG AND MEASURE COMPANY.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.—THE partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned at Pittsburgh, Pa., under the names of E. W. McCLURE & CO. and McCLURE & CO., is this day dissolved by mutual consent, E. W. McCLURE retiring from the business, which will continue to be carried on by G. T. RAFFERTY, under the name of McCLURE & CO. The claims and accounts due by or to the late firm will be settled at No. 14 Smithfield street, Pittsburgh, Pa., by G. T. RAFFERTY.

E. W. McCLURE,
G. T. RAFFERTY.

In retiring from the coke business, the undersigned ask for the succeeding partner the continuance of the patronage and favor which the late firm has enjoyed.

E. W. McCLURE.

Pittsburgh, Pa., January 1, 1877.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION.—WE HAVE this day disposed of our interest in the Novelty Iron Works to our partner, Mr. W. L. JONES & CO., to W. L. JONES, who will continue the business at 222 Liberty street, and said W. L. Jones will settle all business of the late firm.

J. CAMPBELL,
W. L. JONES.

Pittsburgh, January 8, 1877. 7TH

CARPETS.

CARPETS!

DRUGGETS,
OIL CLOTHS,
MATTINGS.

As we near stock taking, we offer SPECIAL BARGAINS.

BOVARD, ROSE & CO.,
29 Fifth Avenue.

JAMES ANGLIM,

PUBLISHER OF

LANMAN'S

Biographical Annals

AND DEALER IN

RARE, OLD & CURIOUS BOOKS

F Street, near the Treasury,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Books bought in large or small quantities.

Law Books. Early American History. Valuable Government Publications, and Standard Works on all subjects receive special attention.

1876 Christmas. 1876

With the return of the season, I would most respectfully ask you to call and examine my large stock of goods suitable for Holiday Presents.

In Engravings the line has never been excelled, and in Photographs, Chromos, Water Colors and Lithographs, I have a full and complete stock.

In the Department of Frames, to which special attention has always been given, will be found a large and varied assortment which, for superiority of manufacture and artistic design, cannot be excelled.

W. W. BARKER,
125 FIFTH AVENUE,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

R. H. PALMER & CO.,
"LIMITED,"
SUCCESSORS TO R. H. PALMER.
WILL CONTINUE THE
Hat, Cap and Fur Business
AT
No. 151 Wood Street,
AND THE
STRAW, MILLINERY,
AND FANCY GOODS BUSINESS
AT
No. 105 Market Street.

PATENTS.

Persons desiring to procure Patents, or wishing to obtain information from the U. S. Patent Office, are advised to consult F. A. LEHMANN, of Washington, D. C., corner of Seventh and G streets, or 39 Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh
Hand for circular.

DRY GOODS

1877.

New Goods

AT WILLIAM

Nos. 165,

167 and 169 Fed

CLOTH SUITINGS.

New and Seasonable Dress Goods at special low prices.
At 10c, Knickerbocker Suitings, all shades.
At 25c, new English Basket Suitings; good value at 37c.
At 30c, Matalasse Basket Cloth Suitings; worth really 37½c.

NEW DRESS GOODS.

At 12½c, Striped and Plaid Seasonable Dress Goods. ☞This line includes many varieties of only new and seasonable styles in cress fabrics, embracing some worth from 20 to 25c.

COLORED DRESS GOODS.

At 25 to 50c, we are offering a large and beautiful line of fine Dress Goods, the assortment of which is unusually attractive, containing all the latest choice colorings suitable for the season, and each lot will be found marked at prices much lower than such are usually sold.

SAECIAL NOTICE.

☞A superior advantage having been afforded us, owing to the extremely dull Silk Season in New York during November and December, we have obtained a line of

BLACK & COLORED DRESS SILKS

at prices lower than those of one year ago, when Silks were lower than ever before known, and to which we respectfully invite an examination.

ALPACAS, CASHMERES.

Black Alpacas, Black and Colored Cashmeres, Colored and Fancy Dress Goods, Deep Mourning Goods, &c.

Stock full and complete, and good value for the money on each counter.

☞ Daily arrivals of Ne attention to the SPECIAL BAR the Very Best Possible Valu

1877 1877

$8.00

THE

Pittsburgh Commercial

FOR 1877.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE REDUCED

TO

EIGHT DOLLARS.

Cheapest Business Paper in the State.

UNSURPASSED AS A

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL

AND

General Newspaper.

The PITTSBURGH DAILY COMMERCIAL, from and after the 1st of January, 1877, will be mailed to subscribers, in the United States, at EIGHT DOLLARS per annum, postage prepaid. The paper, which has heretofore so freely found its way to the business office of the Banker, the Merchant and the Manufacturer, and has so firmly maintained its character as a medium for the dissemination of reliable information concerning Financial and Commercial affairs, will commend itself, more largely to all classes of traders, now that the price has been so materially reduced. It is not only the purpose of the management to keep the Business Departments of the COMMERCIAL fully up to the standard of past years, but to improve them, from time to time, by introducing such new features as the necessities of trade and a proper regard for the interests of the patrons may require.

IN POLITICS

The COMMERCIAL will endeavor to pursue the same course which has characterized it in past years. It will support Republican principles, always exercising the right to freely criticise party measures which do not meet its approval, and to condemn the acts of party friends when those acts do not comport with its sense of right and justice. It will remain faithful to the great political principles upon which the Republican party was based, and will espouse the cause of no clique or faction. The grave questions which now agitate the country, and which must in due time reach a proper and a lasting (we hope peaceful) solution, will be full of interest to the general reader, and will be calmly and dispassionately, but firmly, discussed, in all their bearings.

THE NEWS DEPARTMENTS

Will be fully up to the demands of the reading public. In addition to the comprehensive and accurate reports of the Associated Press, giving the news from all parts of the world; arrangements have been made for special Telegraphic and Mail Correspondence from the National and State Capitals, and from other important centers.

In the department devoted to the publication of Local News will be found a complete daily history of the city and its environs, prepared by a corps of careful writers and set forth in attractive style.

THE MARKETS

Will, as heretofore, receive careful attention. Full telegraphic reports of the State of Business, with Prices Current, will be received daily from the Trade centers of this country and Europe. The Pittsburgh Market, in all its branches, will be reported fully and thoroughly. As a commercial journal the COMMERCIAL stands second to no paper in the country.

The Financial Column will give daily the ruling rates for money and the prices of Stocks and Bonds at all the great trading points, with much interesting statistical matter.

INTERESTING MISCELLANY,

Embracing Poems, Sketches, Incidents of Travel, etc., will find a place in the columns of the COMMERCIAL, furnishing abundance of instruction and amusement for the family circle.

TERMS FOR THE

Daily Commercial.

Postage Free to Subscribers

By mail, per annum	$8 00
By mail, for six months	4 00
By mail, for three months	2 00
By mail, for one month	75
By the week, payable to agents or carriers	15

THE WEEKLY COMMERCIAL!

A PAPER FOR

THE FARMER,
THE MECHANIC,
THE MANUFACTURER,

Will contain in condensed form all the

NEWS OF THE DAY,

Including the Proceedings of Congress and of the Legislatures of Neighboring States. Interesting Correspondence, Choice Selections and

Complete Weekly Market Reports

SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR IT.

☞The WEEKLY COMMERCIAL will be sent

Postage Free to Subscribers.

Terms for 1877.

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL.

(POSTAGE PREPAID.)

One Copy, One Year.....$1 75

CLUB RATES.

Ten Copies, per annum, each.....$1 50
Twenty Copies, " and over, each.. 1 25
And ONE EXTRA COPY to the getter up of Club.

Additions may be made to a Club at any time during the year, at the Club prices, the subscriptions continuing a FULL YEAR from the time the additions shall have been made.

These prices are invariable.

Terms—CASH in advance. Remit in Drafts or Postoffice Money Orders, if possible, and where neither of these can be procured send the money in a REGISTERED LETTER.

☞SPECIMEN COPIES SENT FREE.

Address all orders and letters to

"THE COMMERCIAL,"
PITTSBURGH, PA.

DRY GOODS!

Wednesday,

in Every One of

WILLIAM

167 and 169 Fed

SACQUES AND CLOAKS.

A line of Ladies and Misses' Cloth Sacques, Cloaks and Wraps at lower prices than usual. We are offering in the above goods special bargains.

Ladies' Beaver Cloth, Basket, Chinchilla and Matalasse Cloth Sacques, from $1 50 each upward, being one-third less than usual prices.

FURS! FURS! FURS!

Ladies, Misses and Children's Furs of all kinds at special low prices.

WHITE GOODS.

Choice and full assortment of White Goods of every description at very low prices.

LADIES' UNDERWEAR.

Ladies, Misses and Children's

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, Jan. 17, 1877.

Little news remains to be told of the financial situation, which is quiet and indeed decidedly stagnant. A portion of the present lack of business at the banks is to be expected at this season, when mercantile affairs are always quiet and comparatively little commercial paper is made; but in addition to this there is an unusually heavy accumulation of funds for which no immediate prospect of employment presents itself. Bankers, therefore, who do not yield to the temptation to take second class or unknown paper—of which there is always an unlimited supply—have to content themselves with what little business they can get at low rates, and patiently await the coming of more active times. Discounts are easy at 6@8 per cent. for prime commercial paper at the banks; 5@6 per cent. on first-class collaterals; 7@10 per cent. on the street. Eastern exchange is in fair supply, about equal to the requirements of business, and drafts on New York rule at par in bank settlements. The gold market continues steady at about 1 per cent. above the extreme decline of last week. The price of greenbacks rules at 94¼@94⅜ in gold. Silver in London is up to 57¾d per ounce. At the New York equivalent the bullion in the trade dollar has a gold value of $0.9894, that in a 412½ grain dollar has a gold value of $0.9629, and that in two halves, four quarters or ten dimes has a gold value of $0.9606.

—The agitation of the subject of reducing the war rates of taxation on the banks still continues. While the burden of this taxation is not severely felt in Pennsylvania, where the State assessments are comparatively light, all must sympathize with the struggle which the overburdened banks in other States are making to relieve themselves. It is also apparent to every one that the only interest which still has to bear the full burden of war taxes should be afforded some relief. In the present state of things the banks are completely walled in. If any large amount of the redundant currency is placed on deposit, the bank stockholders are compelled to pay a tax upon it, without having any opportunity of using it. Again, should a holder of a large quantity of gold place the precious metal in the bank on deposit, merely for safe-keeping, the bank is compelled to pay tax without realizing anything from it. The impolicy of the present method of taxation appears the strongest in the light of its ultimate effect on business at large. The banks are a most important part of the machinery of commerce. They make its collections regulate exchanges, furnish and control its credits and make themselves in every way an absolute necessity to the commercial system of the present day. Embarrass them and the whole business world is embarrassed with them. Keep up the burden on them long enough to drive any considerable banking capital out of existence, and throughout all the vast ramifications of commerce and manufactures, the loss will be most severely felt.

—The following is the committee appointed at the recent meeting of the New York Chamber of Commerce to lay before Congress its views about the impolicy of the present taxation of the national banks: George T. Hope, Gustav Schwab, B. G. Arnold, H. B. Claflin, Martin Bates, James Hasleburst, Anson Phelps Stokes, James M. Constable, William B. Kendall and A. S. Barnes.

The London *Economist*, of December 30, has an article on "The Taxation of Banks in the United States," from which we make the following short extract:

There may be some difference of opinion among economists as to the expediency and equity of a tax upon the circulation of the banks, the right of note issue being a privilege conferred by the State, from which the banks derive a profit. But there can be no question whatever as to the injustice and injurious nature of the other forms of Government taxation.

—We give below a comparison of the leading items in the recent statement of the Pittsburgh and Chicago national banks, which affords a very striking view of the relative proportions of the financial interests of the two cities. It will be observed that the capital and circulation of our banks is much the larger, while in deposits the Chicago banks take the lead. The Chicago statement, from which we take these items, gives no information whatever about the cash reserves of the banks, from which we conclude that they would not make a very favorable showing in proportion to their liabilities. The comparative statement is as follows:

	Pittsburgh.	Chicago.
Capital stock	$11,335,540	$ 6,800,000
Surplus and profits	6,101,301	2,350,553
Loans and discounts	21,803,691	12,959,253
Circulation	6,161,700	1,924,110
Deposits	10,233,483	6,301,381

—The recent report of the Bank Commissioners of Connecticut has the following about the savings banks of that State: "The whole number of savings banks in the State is eighty-six. No new ones have been added the past year. The Workingmen's Five Cent Savings Bank of Hartford, which never had more than about $12,000 of deposits, has been discontinued and is in the hands of a receiver. The total amount of deposits in the savings banks October 1st was $76,489,310 41, being an increase since January 1, 1876, of $2,034,862 07. The total surplus is over two and a half millions, being an increase of $100,000. The loans on real estate have increased, and those on personal security have decreased. The loans on State, town and city bonds have increased $1,639,707 00. The United States bonds $1,083,232 49. The whole number of depositors is 203,514, a decrease of 4,516. The largest amount due one depositor is $32,066 03. The commissioners recommend that no interest be paid on larger deposits than $1,000, and that deposits left twenty-one years without draft shall cease to draw interest."

—The New York *Post* of yesterday says of the prospects of coal stocks. "The Wall street markets are less active than yesterday, and stocks are lower, with the coal shares decidedly weak. All expectation of another combination having passed away—and there was never good reason for such expectation—the best of the coal companies have now to face six months when business for them is never very profitable, their profits being made in that part of the year extending from June to January. The unsound companies have, in addition to an unfavorable business, to meet deferred obligations which can only be provided for by resort to credit; in both their credit is now good enough to serve them is questionable. It is not strange, therefore, that holders of coal stocks are selling them. Undoubted investments like United State bonds continue strong, and prices where changed are still higher than yesterday."

—The annual report of Dun, Wiman & Co., of Montreal, shows that 1876 was a harder year to Canadian mercantile interests than that of the panic. In Canada last year one man in every thirty-two in business failed; in this country the proportion, bad enough at that, was one in every sixty-nine. The aggregate liabilities, however, were $3,300,000 less than in 1875. The causes of Canadian hard times have been the failure of the crops, and a general inflation of credit and business like that in the United States.

—The Union Bank of London has given notice that is will no longer allow interest on customers' monthly balances. During the last year or two of hard times it has been a misfortune for a bank in London, where the practice prevails of paying interest on monthly balances, to receive a large account. Other banks, it is announced, will be compelled to follow the example of the Union. The profits of London banking are too small in these times to allow the payment of interest on deposits.

[By Associated Press.]

Gold Closed at 106⅝.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, January 17.—Money 5@6 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 5@6 per cent. Customs receipts $185,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $581,000. Clearings $21,000,000. Sterling 483¼@484.

GOLD.

Gold opened at 106¾ and closed at 106⅝. Carrying rates 4@6⅛ per cent. Silver at London 57⅞ pence per ounce; here bar silver is 133¾ bid in greenbacks and 125 bid in gold; silver coin 125¾ bid.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds active, strong. Railroad bonds firm; South Pacific of Missouri advanced 1 per cent, selling up to 74; Union Pacific sinking funds rose to 95 and Western Pacific to 101. State securities quiet. The stock market was weak early in the day, and prices declined from ¼ to 1½ per cent., but a firmer feeling prevailed in the afternoon and prices recovered from ¼ to ½ per cent. Lake shores fell off to 54½ and closed at 55; Western Union declined to 75¼ and later recovered to 75¾; Michigan Central fell off to 47¾ and closed at 48⅝; Delaware, Lackawanna and Western declined to 74¾ and New Jersey Central to 33¾, with final sales at 75¼ and 34½ respectively; Rock Island declined from 101¾ to 101. The gross fluctuations of the day were in St. Paul preferred, which dropped from 50¾ to 49¾ and closed at 49½; common fell off from 19 to 18¾. Transactions 228,000 shares, of which 43,000 were Western Union 25,000 St. Paul, 32,000 Lake Shore, 7,000 Michigan Central, 7,000 New Jersey Central and 6,000 Delaware, Lackawanna and Western. The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.			
West. Union Tel.	75¾	N. J. Central	34¼
Quicksilver	14¾	Rock Island	101¾
Do. preferred	26	St. Paul	49½
Pacific Mail	24	Do. preferred	49¾
Mariposa	6¾	Toledo & Wabash	19
Do. preferred	17	Ft. Wayne	100½
Adams Express	102	Terre Haute	3¼
Wells Fargo Ex	84½	Do. preferred	18
American Ex	57½	Chicago & Alton	90
United States Ex	56½	Do. preferred	102
New York Central	102	Ohio & Mississippi	25¾
Erie	9	Del. & Lack	75¾
Do. preferred	17½	Atlantic & P. Tel	10¾
Harlem	138½	Missouri Pacific	36¼
Do. preferred	136½	Atlantic & P. pref	2
Michigan Central	48½	Indiana Central	19
Panama	122	Ft. Wayne & Quincy	117½
Lake Shore	54¾	Hannibal & St. Joe	12¾
Illinois Central	79	Union Pac. stock	59
Cleve. and Pitts	91	Central Pac. bds	100¾
Northwestern	89¾	Union Pac. bds	103¾
Do. preferred	96	Del. and Lack. grants	101¾
C., C., & I	37	Do. & R. bonds	94½
GOVERNMENTS.			
U. S. coupons, 1881	114¾	New 5's	112¾
5-20's, 1865	109¾	New 4½'s	108½
5-20's, 1865, new	110¾	10-40's, registered	113
5-20's, 1867	113¾	10-40's, coupons	113¾
5-20's, 1868	116	Currency 6's	122½
STATE BONDS.			
Tennessee, old	43	Virginia, old	30
Tennessee, new	45¼	Missouri 6's	104¾
Virginia, new	30		

LONDON, January 17, 5 P. M.—The rate of discount in open market for three months' bills is 1¼ per cent, being ⅝ below the Bank of England rate. The amount of bullion withdrawn from the bank on balance to-day is £330,000. Consols 95 9-16. United States bonds—5-20's, 1865, 105¼; do 1867, 109; 10-40's, 107¾; new 5's, 108¾. Railroad securities—New York Central 99; Erie 9¼; preferred 17.

PARIS, January 17.—Rentes 106 francs 47½ centimes.

FRANKFORT, January 17.—United States bonds—New 5's 102½.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, January 17, 1877.

The condition of trade to-day, on the whole, was an improvement on that of yesterday, the report of dealers generally being that the market was fair, though there were no important changes named except in flour, the market for which is excellent. The grain market is firm but unchanged. The weather to-day has been good for travel, and has possibly had its influence in the improvement which we report.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city since our last are as follows:

Flour, bbls	8,383	7,405	15,788
Apples, bbls	127	146	273
Cheese, bxs	30	385	415
Corn, bus	10,378	6,187	16,565
Wheat, bus	1,975	4,403	6,378
Oats, bus	2,973	5,069	8,042
Rye, bus	1,276	1,200	2,479
Oats, bus	13,500	14,392	27,821
Butter, pkgs	402	347	749
Bacon, pcs	23,121	9,161	32,282
Bacon, lbs	21	3,6	357
Potatoes, bus	758	3,213	3,971
Hay, bales	1,049	1,54	2,575

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge in advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

The grain trade to-day was moderate and dealers were still looking up, though they had nothing new to tell of the situation. In flour we quote an advance which had been looked for for some days—an advance of 25c on No. 1 white wheat, No. 1 amber Minnesota and fancy St. Louis.

GRAIN—A slight shading off on wheat was reported from Chicago this morning, but the report was of no importance. The scarcity of wheat in all the States this side of the Rocky Mountains, the opinion of commission dealers, will keep it at grain at the present figures, or above, until the approach of harvest. The quotations of yesterday we reported unchanged as below. The other grains remain firm at the quotations named. Sales of spring red wheat $1 40@1 43 ₩ bushel; prime amber $1 43 @1 45; prime white $1 45@1 50. Old corn is now fairly out of market. On new prices are firm at following unchanged quotations: Ear 55@56c; prime shelled 51@53c. Oats are in good supply and quoted at 39@40c ₩ bushel for prime white; mixed 37@38c. Rye is quoted 75@76c for Pennsylvania. Barley at 55c for choice; 75@80c for good to prime spring; prime fall $1 00; low grades 60c; market dull; jobbing sales at the customary advance.

FLOUR—As already stated the market is vigorous on the advance, and the receipts now main fairly meeting the demand. We quote to-day: No. 1 white wheat flour $8 25@8 50 ₩ barrel; No. 1 amber $8 00@8 25; No. 2 wheat flour $7 50; Wisconsin $7 25@7 50; Minnesota $7 50@7 75. Barley meal $3 25@3 50; pancake flour $9 25; Graham flour $6 75@7 25; cornmeal 70c ₩ bushel; oatmeal $6 75@7 00 ₩ barrel; split peas $5 25@5 40; do whole $4 75@5 00 ₩ barrel.

HAY—Dealers report nothing new in the market for this article and we continue to quote as below. Wagon $12 00@14 00 ₩ ton; No. 1 timothy $13 00@15 00; No. 2 timothy $11 00@12 00 from first hands baled. Prairie—Upland $ 10 00@13 00; mixed $9 00 @10 00.

MILL FEED—Nothing was reported to-day to justify any alteration in the figures of the last few days. We quote bran at $14 00@15 00 ₩ ton; middlings $22 00@24 00; seconds and shipstuffs $16 00@18 00; chopped feed $20 00@ 23 00.

Country Produce.

The country produce market was a little better to-day, but prices remain so nearly what they were yesterday that we may reprint the quotations and remarks just about as they stand:

APPLES—Good cooking and eating apples were in demand and selling to-day at $1 50@2 00 ₩ barrel; lower grades $1 00@1 50.

APPLE BUTTER—Market quiet with sales of 60c ₩ gallon.

BEESWAX—Is quoted at 29@31c ₩ ℔.

BRAN—Are in fair demand at $1 00@2 25 for prime to choice. Limas 11½@12c; new crop, $4 50 per bushel.

BEANS, CORN—Prices unchanged. Choice hurl 65c, as to quality; brush thin; will work up to 75c; medium green 40@45c; red-topped 30@40; Canada yellow eyes 60@65c; white 55@60c; Lima beans 8½ per cent. off the prices given, as to quality.

HOPS—Dull at present, and quoted at 30@35c ₩ ℔.

SHAKER DRIED CORN—9c ₩ ℔.

ONIONS—Scarce just at present, and quoted at $2 75@3 00 ₩ bbl, but this rate is not expected to last long.

HONEY—California comb 23c ₩ ℔; home honey 22c.

CRANBERRIES—Supply sufficient and market dull. The quotations are $10 00 ₩ bbl; $3 25@ 3 50 ₩ bushel.

CIDER—Prices range from $3 50@4 50, barrel included, for common; $5 00@5 50 for extra choice.

DRIED FRUITS—Market decidedly slow, hardly enough being done to fix quotations. We quote dried apples at 4½@5c ₩ ℔ for prime; dried peaches 10@12c evaporated, 5@6c sun.

DRIED FLOWER—There is a moderate demand for new crop at $1 40@1 50 ₩ bushel.

BUTTER—The market is very thoroughly stocked with both prime and lower grade butter. Of creamery roll there is but little in the market; its demand is limited to near the East; but of choice dairy roll there is plenty. We quote choice and packed 18@20c per ℔; do roll 9@22c; choice dairy rolls 24@25c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Is quiet at $3 50@3 75 per cwt in small lots; $3 25 by the keg.

CHEESE—Market quiet and no changes to report. We quote prime Ohio factory at 14 @14½c in round lots; 15@15½c in small lots. New York Goshen 15½@16c in round lots; 16@16½c in a jobbing way. Young American 16c; nutmeg 17c.

SEEDS—There is as yet but little inquiry. The asking rates from store are: Clover seed $5 00 @7 00 ₩ bushel or 62 ℔s; timothy seed $2 00@2 15.

EGGS—Strictly fresh eggs are exceedingly scarce and the market is almost impossible to quote to-day. They form the leading exception to the dullness of the produce market. Pickled eggs also are rather scarce. We quote strictly fresh eggs at 32@34c ₩ dozen; pickled at 25@27c.

FEATHERS—Prime choice quoted at 60@65c in wholesale lots; lower qualities 50@60c.

FISH—Are in good supply and demand, owing to a quite large supply, and in the case of dressed poultry to the few days of soft weather which we have had. Dressed poultry quoted for live 12c ₩ ℔. We quote live turkeys at 75c@$1 00 each; dressed 11@12c ₩ ℔. Live chickens in coop 40@50c ₩ pair. Ducks, live, 60@70c ₩ pair; dressed 12@13c ₩ ℔. Geese 50@60c each.

POTATOES—Prices have not changed since the market of yesterday. No potatoes were reported on tracks, and we quote from store: Prime Peerless, Early Rose and Snowflake, early rose $1 20@1 25. But few sweet potatoes were in market, and so far as we could learn there was all sorts of sweeps; a few were quoted at $3 00@3 50 per barrel.

VINEGAR—There is scarcely anything doing. We quote nominally 17@20c ₩ gallon for prime country stock; 14@15c for basis city make.

WOOL—Common fleece, ₩ ℔, 33c; ¼ to full blood, ₩ ℔, 38@39c; combing, ₩ ℔, 40c; unwashed, ₩ ℔, 38c; city pullings, ₩ ℔, 25@30c; unwashed, ₩ ℔, 18@20c.

Provisions.

The provision trade was called quite satisfactory, but it continued during the day without exciting events or features of any mention, a better trade will begin when new meats are fairly in the market. We quote:

BACON—Shoulders, new, 8¼c per pound; short rib sides 10¼c; clear sides 11c.

CURED AND CANVAS MEATS—Hams are firm at 12¼c ₩ ℔ for extra sugar-cured. Breakfast bacon rules easy, and we quote sugar-cured at 12½c. Sugar-cured shoulders were steady at 9½c. Dried beef, sugar-cured, was firm at 13c. Beef tongues, per dozen, are quoted at $7 00.

LARD—The market is quiet and strong at the following quotations: Refined tierces, 12c; ¼ bbls 12¼c; pails 12¾c. Refined hard—Tierces 12¾c; ¼ bbls 13c; 20-℔ pails 13¾c; 3 ℔ tin pails 14½c; 5-℔ do, 14¾c; 8 ℔ do, 14¼c; 3-℔ caddies, 14¾c; 5-℔ do 14¾c.

LARD OIL—Market quiet at the following quotations: Extra winter strained 55c@$1 05 ₩ gall; No. 1, 77@82c; No. 2, 65@68c.

HOGS, PORK—Following are the ruling quotations: $18 50@19 00 ₩ bbl. The market is reported quiet and firm.

TALLOW—White candlers' city rendered, at 9@9¼c ₩ ℔; country do 7¼@8c ₩ ℔; rough 5½@6c ₩ ℔.

Groceries.

Trade in the grocery business underwent no changes to-day whatever, and, as was the case yesterday, was fair. A decline of ⅛c on standard sugars was anticipated, but did not occur. The ruling quotations are given below:

Green Coffees.	₩ ℔.	*Sugars.*	₩ ℔.
Fancy Rio	20½c	Stan'd A	11⅝c
Choice Rio	20½c	Standard B	11¼c
Prime Rio	20c	Extra C	10⅝c
Good Rio	19 c	Extra C—yel.	9½@10¼c
Ordinary Rio	18 c	C—yellow	9¼@ 9½c
Java	30@32c	Franklin, B.	10¾@10¾c
Roasted Coffees.		New Orleans	8¼@10¼c
Rio, in papers	23 c	Cut Loaf	13½c
2¼ grains do	25 c	Crushed	13½c
Rio, in bulk	28½c	Powdered	13½c
Java, in papers	30 c	Granulated	13¼c
Java, in bulk	30½c	*Molasses.*	₩ gall.
Teas.		Dry ch. N. O	60@62c
Young Hyson	25@60	Prime	55@58c
Gunpowder	35@ 90	*Syrups.*	
Imperial	30@ 60	Ex. white drips	54@56c
Japan	25@ 85	Sugar drips	52c
Oolong	25@ 85	Lower grades	25@45c
Fancy Oolong	1 00	*Starch.*	₩ ℔
Souchong	28@ 75	Pearl	3½@4 c
Spices (whole.)		Silver gloss	6½c
Cloves	45 c	Corn	7½@12c
Alspice	17 c	Chicago gloss	8 c
Cassia	20@21 c	Chicago corn	8½c
Nutmegs	@1 15	*Rice.*	
Pepper	18 c	Choice Carlin	6¼@7 c
Canned Goods.		Louisiana	5¾@6¼c
Irish soup, ₩ box	@4 20	*Soda.*	
B. B. Soup, ₩ box	@4 50	Bi-carb, in kgs	4½@5 c
Babbitt's best, ₩ box	6 75	Bi-carb, in 1-lb pkgs	5 c
Gold do	6 25	Bi-carb, in 2 papers	6¼c
Extra oysters	3 50	*Candles.*	
Do. N. Y. City, ₩ 3 ℔	2 75	Star, full w't	16 c
German mottled do	2 75	Stearine	11@12 c
Gilfoyle's, ₩ box	4 25	Mould	11@12c

FISH—Following are the ruling quotations at which sales are made:

	Per bbl.		Per bbl.
Extra No. 1 Mess		Round herring	@6 50
mackerel	@27 00	Split Labrador do	7 50
Extra No. 1 shore	26 00	Lake Fish, hf-bbls	3 50
Extra No. 1 bay	17 00	Lake Herring, do	3 00
Extra No. 2 large	12 00	Lge Georges cod-	
No. 2 medium	9 50	fish, ₩ ℔	6
Large No. 3	12 00	Medium Georges	5¼
No. 3 medium	9 00	Halibut, ₩ ℔	12¾
White fish, hf-bbls	5 75	No. 1 Herring, ₩ box	35
Lake Trout, do	4 50	Scaled herring do	40

FOREIGN FRUITS—The market is quiet and prices rule as below. We quote: Layers raisins, new, per box, $2 25; London layers, new, $3 25; Muscatel $3 30; new muscatel raisins $4 65 ₩ mat; Valentias, new, 10c ₩ ℔; Sultanas 12c. Dates 8@9c. Currants 7½c. Citron 30c. Prunes 6½c. Almonds—Languedoc 22c; do shelled 38c; do Princess 35c; do Jordan 50c, do Ivica 25c. Walnuts—Naples 20c; Marbot 15c; Sicily filberts 16c. Smyrna figs, new, 14c. Brazil nuts 10c. Maccaroni 11@12c. Tapioca 10c. Lemons—Palermo, ₩ box, $4 00. Oranges—Florida $5 50 ₩ hundred. Cocoanuts $7 00 ₩ hundred.

CANNED GOODS—No change in prices. We quote green peas, 2 ₩ cans ₩ dozen, $2 25; tomatoes do do 2 00; strawberries do do 2 35; gooseberries do $1 30; pineapples do, $2 20; blackberries do, $1 50; peaches, 3 ₩ cans per doz, $2 25; tomatoes do, $1 90; pickles, bbls, $6 50; half-bbls, $3 00.

Petroleum.

January 17.—The market continues dull and very much demoralized. Dealers are still wide apart in their views, hence there was no disposition to operate. Notwithstanding this, prices are no lower, holders manifesting no indication to change their views. We look for no perceptible improvement while the Eastern and European markets remain in their present unsatisfactory condition. Refined in this market is quoted to the home trade at 24¼c; no demand for round lots. At New York the market is dull but not quotably lower. Spot in bulk is 22c; cases 29@30c; future not wanted. At Baltimore and Philadelphia, in the absence of sales, we can only give the asking rates, viz: 27c for spot; 31@32c for cases; no demand for futures.

PARKERS, January 17, 6 P. M.—The crude oil market opened dull and during the morning prices gave way rapidly, touching $3 48½c from this point a reaction set in and it has since settled back to the opening price, viz: $3 55, and has since remained steady at about that figure, the present quotation being $3 54½. Shipments quiet at $3 65@3 70 for outside lines. Union holding for $3 80. Shipments from the lower district for the 16th inst. 23,083 barrels.

[By Western Union Telegraph.]

OIL CITY, January 17.—The *Derrick* says of yesterday's market: The market opened quiet but firm at $3 65, from which it gradually advanced to $3 67½. At this price 30,000 or 40,000 barrels changed hands, one sale of 20,000 barrels being made. The market then declined to $3 57½, advanced to $3 59½, weakened again and declined to $3 56¾. There were offerings at this price and no buyers, but after some time a sale was reported at $3 57½. At this price 30,000 or 40,000 barrels changed hands, one sale of 20,000 barrels being made. The market then declined to $3 57½, advanced to $3 59½, weakened again and declined to $3 56¾. There were offerings at this price and no buyers, but after some time a sale was reported at $3 57½. At this price 30

CITY MATTERS.

For seventy-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Weather Report.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., ROOM 23, FIRST NATIONAL BANK, PITTSBURGH, PA., January 17, 1877.

Time.	Bar	Th't	Tun	—WIND.— Dir.	Miles P hour	Veath
7 A M	30.45	27	88	E.	2	Cloudy
2 P M	30.40	31	70	S.	3	Rain
9 P M	30.490	29	80	S. E.	2	Clear

Mean barometer....30.481 Highest thermom.... 33
Mean thermomtn.... 29 Lowest thermom.... 25

School of Design.

The annual Art Reception of the School of Design will be held on Monday evening next in the bank building, corner of Wood street, Sixth avenue and Liberty street. The exhibition of the pupils' productions will be open every day during the week, from 10 in the morning till 5 o'clock in the evening.

Western University.

A course of weekly lectures on experimental chemistry will be delivered in the lecture room of the Western University, beginning Thursday, January 18th, at 8 P. M., by Francis C. Phillips, Professor of Chemistry. The course will include about twenty lectures, which will be fully illustrated by experiments. Fee for the course $5.

Alleged False Pretenses.

John Morrison and Alex. Carson were before Alderman Burke yesterday, charged on oath of Nathaniel Sefton, with obtaining from him groceries to the amount of $300 by false pretenses. The false and fraudulent representations are alleged to be the giving of promissory notes for the goods accompanied by the statement that the maker of said notes owned a large tract of land in Laporte county, Ind. The accused were held for a hearing to-day, Carson giving bail and Morrison being committed in default.

A Prudent Selection.

The Globe Mutual Life Insurance Company are indeed fortunate in the choice of Mr. J. C. Orr to have charge of their interests in this city and Western Pennsylvania. Mr. Orr is well and favorably known in this section, is a reliable and courteous business man, and it is safe to assume that under his management the old and reliable Mutual will achieve, as it will deserve, increased patronage. Mr. O. will be pleased to give all desired information at the company's office, corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street.

Railroad Men's Christian Association.

Altoona is a great centre for employees of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, many of them being persons engaged on the trains, and who do not have their families there. One of the best institutions of that thriving mountain city is the Railroad Men's Christian Association, the object of which is to advance the social, moral and religious welfare of railroad employes; offering to them a free reading room, in which they can spend their leisure time in reading, writing or conversation. The room is open every day from eight o'clock A. M., until nine o'clock P. M. The Association is sustained by the voluntary contribution of its members. During the six months ending December 31st, 1876, there had been a total attendance at the rooms, and at the special services in the churches, of 11,216. The results are of the most encouraging character, and the committee who make the report thank God for the past and take courage for the future. The Association tender their acknowledgments to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, through the General Superintendent, Mr. Gardner, for substantial aid in rendering the work successful.

Narrow Gauge Railroads.

The Painesville, Canton and Bridgeport Narrow Gauge Railroad Company on Friday closed contracts with Messrs. Weiss, Button & Co., of Reading, Pa., for the building of their road from Chagrin Falls, O., to the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad, at or near Canton, a distance of about sixty miles, to be ready for the running of cars this season. As soon as arrangements now making are completed these gentlemen will commence work south of the Fort Wayne railroad and build to Bridgeport on the Ohio river, and from Solon north to Cleveland, in all about one hundred and fifty miles. The reputation these gentlemen have for energy and skill is a sufficient guarantee they will soon have the cars running. They have just completed the Karns City & Butler road, and will commence work on this as soon as the weather will permit. Contracts have been entered into for building the Pittsburgh and North-western and New York parties, who propose commencing work as soon as they can get ready.

Sad Cases of Distress.

The wife of a former member of the Allegheny Poor Board was an applicant before that body this week for relief. Her husband, who lately obtained employment on the railroad, met with a fatal accident, leaving his wife and children destitute. The wife has managed thus far to support herself and children by needlework. What she wanted of the Poor Board this week was a load of coal, which she got immediately.

Another case, likewise affording a strong illustration of the reverses of fortune, was witnessed in the office of the Poor Board the other day. A young woman came to ask for a loaf of bread. She was of neat and respectable appearance though poorly clad. Mr. McGonigle began to question her as to her place of residence, &c., after the usual custom, and found she was a former schoolmate of himself, a bright intelligent girl at the time, who was looked upon as one of the most promising scholars of the school. She hung her head and answered the questions hesitatingly at first, but finally bursting into tears, she told her history, which was brief and not singular. She was married to an industrious young man, who finally was thrown out of work, and became sickly, and at the present time was at home on a sick bed, with nothing in the house and no money to buy medicine. Others with a similar unfortunate experience are to be seen there every day.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

HANLON, of Toronto, will row Scharff in the spring.

"ROCKY" Steen has been arrested and sent to Bellaire to answer a charge of burglary.

THE Artists' Association has decided on having another free exhibition about the first week in May.

MR. JAMES S. ROUTH lost a fifty-trip ticket to Vanport, on the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad, yesterday.

"KEEP your seat, sir," is what a lady said to her gallant, yesterday, as he gently (?) sat down upon the sidewalk.

GANGS of young thieves infest the crowds emerging from Murphy's meetings, and pilfer ladies' handkerchiefs.

THE Association of Wrought Iron Pipe Manufacturers will hold session at the Monongahela House this morning.

HUGH HALL was committed to jail yesterday by Alderman McMasters for trial on a charge of assault and battery, preferred by Bertha Hall.

WILLIAM SWEENEY a resident of Twenty-fifth street informed the police last evening that he had $1,900 stolen from him at Murphy's meeting.

HEALTH OFFICER GRAY reports that there are twenty cases of smallpox in the hospital. Sixty-eight cases were reported at the Health office last month.

GEORGE HAMILTON was yesterday committed to jail by Alderman Cassidy for trial on charges of false pretenses and larceny by bailee. John Schmidt was the prosecutor.

A SMALL boy named Charles O'Brien, whose parents reside on Eighteenth street, South Side, Pittsburgh, had two fingers horribly mutilated by a circular saw at the steam box factory in that vicinity.

THE North (Fourth ward) school subdistrict has organized by electing Dr. J. C. Burgher, President; Colonel Wm. A. Herron, Secretary; and John G. Holmes, of the firm of N. Holmes & Son, treasurer

HON. JOHN M. KIRKPATRICK will deliver his lecture on "Walks and Talks about Europe" at Rev. W. H. Gill's Presbyterian Church, Allegheny, this evening, for the benefit of the Home for the Friendless.

TWO more bodies have been offered for cremation, but while Dr. LeMoyne is opposed to having a corpse secretly cremated, and thus connecting a mystery with it, he is not in favor of giving another case the publicity accorded the DePalm burning.

THE body of the boy March Hunnings, who was drowned in Girty's run, about half a mile above Millvale, was recovered yesterday morning. He was seven years of age, and son of Mr. Frank Hunnings, who resides near the scene of the accident.

UNITED STATES detective officers are after more of the parties who have been engaged in shoving counterfeit money in Cambria and Indiana counties, and their arrest is expected this week. When caught they will be brought to Pittsburgh for trial.

THE officers of the Allegheny County Medical Society for the ensuing year are: President, N. McDonald; Vice President, C. B. King; Recording Secretary, E. S. Riggs, Corresponding Secretary, W. S. Foster; Treasurer, W. S. Haselton; Censor, J. B. Murdoch.

A DISPATCH from Toronto anounces that Edward Hanlon, the oarsman, will accept the challenge from Boyd, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, to row there in the spring, for $2,500 a side, Hanlon allowing $175 for expenses. He also intends puting up a forfeit at once for matches in the spring with Scharff, of this city, and Wallace Ross, of New Brunswick.

A WIDOW named Riley, who keeps a tobacco and candy store on Hatfield street, between Forty-eight and Forty ninth on going to her store yesterday morning discovered that thieves had entered during the night. On investigation she found that three pounds of tobacco, one box of tobies, one box of good cigars, and a lot of candies had been stolen.

OUR TWO RIVERS.

The Rubicon of Danger Subsiding.

RESULTS OF THE DEVASTATION.

The River Men Gathering Up the Remnants of the Wrecks--The Damage by Ice and Torrent.

At this writing both the Monongahela and Allegheny are subsiding slowly, and appearances indicate that very little damage will be done in either rivers. As far as the Monongahela is concerned, the ice has nearly all run out, even from the tributaries, while another immediate rise of the Allegheny, swelling the flood in the lower Ohio and inundating its banks, would find comparatively less to destroy than had it swelled and broken on Sunday, Monday or Tuesday nights. Fortunately its wash of yesterday morning was but momentary, and the results comparatively inconsiderable. Below we give the details as far as learned of the three days' disasters, together with the condition of affairs on both water fronts up to the hour of going to press:

THE MONONGAHELA AND OHIO.

At one o'clock yesterday morning the Monongahela at its pier marks indicated twenty-four feet six inches, its highest point, and from that time the torrent appeared to have spent its force, as it gradually but reluctantly subsided. Very little ice is running now, and the river is falling slowly.

NOTES OF THE LATE DISASTER.

The frame building on Lock No. 1, used as an office, was swept away, the barges which had lodged on the ice breaker having been hurled against it.

All the buildings of the copper works at Soho are submerged and work has been suspended.

Evans, Dalzell & Co.'s Tube works have shut down in consequence of the flood.

The Iron City secured eighteen empty flats and barges at the head of Glass House.

Three loaded barges and a flat of W. H. Brown's sunk above the upper railroad piers on Tuesday night.

H. B. Hays & Bro.'s lower tipple at Beck's Run was carried away on Monday night by the flood.

The towboat Industry recovered twenty-two empty flats, barges, &c., belonging to to various owners at Brunot's yesterday. Other towboats are engaged in the same good work with general success.

Three barges belonging to W. H. Brown floated past the city last night and to-day.

Some coal men say this has been the most disastrous flood ever experienced in the Monongahely valley, and that it will take at least five years to recover from its effects.

J. R. Risher & Co's. loss here and at Cincinnati is estimated at $75,000.

W. H. Brown & Co. lost a barge of coke near Ellrod Station. All the tipples in the vicinity of Ellrod's were more or less damaged. The ice is all out of the "Yough."

The Tiger and barges which have been below Sunfish ever since the close of navigation, are reported as swept away by the ice.

Clark's, formerly McGowan & Co.'s, works, just above Dam No. 4, are a total wreck.

The tippie and abutment at Coal Bluff, of Negley & Co., were completely swept away.

The Black Diamond outriggers and dust road were carried away by the water last night.

The tipple of a new works above Brownsville passed Monongahela City yesterday morning. The works had not yet started. It is a complete wreck.

Hays & Bro's other tipple at Beck's Run was carried away on Tuesday night.

The Tiger and barges were swept away from Sunfish the same night.

The twenty-five boats at the Point are all right. So are the fifty or sixty on the South Side and at Saw Mill Run.

The engine and hull of the Minnie Harris were landed at J. L. Rhoads' farm at Haysville on Tuesday, and the engine saved. Along came the flood that night and floated off the hull.

THE SMITHFIELD STREET FLEET.

Altogether four coalboats, thirteen coal barges, one fuel boat and one flat, all loaded with coal, broke away from the Smithfield street bridge yesterday afternoon. The empty packages probably average $800 in value, aggregating $15,200. The coal was owned by the following persons: John McCloskey, three barges coal, 36,000 bushels; Joseph Keeling, four barges coal, 48,000 bu-hels, two coal boats, 40,000 bushels; R. J. Wilson, two barges coal, 24,000 bushels; Lynch & Robinson, one barge coal, 12,000 bushels; Thomas Hutchison, one barge coal, 12,000 bushels; J. D. Bigley, one fuel coal boat, 10,000 bushels; Riddle, Coleman & Co., one coalboat, 23,000 bushels; one barge coal, 12,000 bushels; Edward Furlong, one barge coal, 12,000 bushels; Altman & Co., one fuel boat, 5,500 bushels; Gumbert & Co., one flat coal, 3,000 bushels; 19 pieces 237,500 bushels.

THE PAN HANDLE BRIDGE INJURED.

The ice and driftwood that come down the Monongahela on Tuesday night did severe injury to the Pan Handle bridge. The upper cord of the first arch of the wooden structure was badly smashed, a large hole being knocked into it. When the accommodation train came on this morning it was stopped south of the broken arch and the passengers transferred, they crossing the span on foot. The express West crossed soon after nine o'clock at a snail's pace. The river is so high that it is questionable whether the damage can be immediately repaired, but in the meantime the trains will be run with the greatest care.

LOSSES UP THE MONONGAHELA.

The East Williamsburg losses foot up nearly $10,000.

Miller Co. at Millesville lost $8,000.

Robinson Bros.' works were damaged to the extent of $500.

Cokain's losses were to the extent of $4,500; H. Warne & Bro.'s, $2,000; Gilmore's, $5,000; Nish & Co's., $6,000; Peterson's, $2,500; Houston's (at Limestown) $4,000; Foster, Blythe & Neel, $3,600; Lindsay, McCutcheon & Co, (at Mingo Creek) $2,000. It is impracticable to estimate the aggregate loss until the water recedes and the river and coalmen have an opportunity of approximating the cost of repairs. No empty craft have been left in Pool No. 3.

LATEST FROM THE MONONGAHELA.

At three o'clock this morning the pier marks on the Smithfield street bridge indicated seventeen feet of water. The river had fallen seven feet in twelve hours. All apprehensions of further danger in this quarter have disappeared. At daylight this morning nearly all the towboats will leave to gather up the remnants. The Sam Clark and Lioness No. 2 will each take a tow of coal belonging to W. H. Brown's Sons, amounting to 300,000 bushels. The destination is Louisville. Such is the undaunted pluck of our Pittsburgh coal kings.

THE ALLEGHENY.

There is very little to add to what has been published respecting the Allegheny. The run of ice which commenced yesterday morning was of short duration and did very little damage. There are several gorges in the river, one between the Mechanic street and Ewalt street bridges, another a short distance above Sharpsburg, and a third at Monrtose. The latter gorge, it is said, extends about six miles up the river. A dispatch from the latter place yesterday afternoon says:

"The ice is unbroken for about a quarter of a mile near the Star Refinery, causing the gorge which, according to report of some parties who have just arrived here, extends up about six miles, making the total length of the gorge about ten miles. The Allegheny at this point is very wide, is overflowing the banks at some places. We can form no accurate estimate of the depth. It does not seem to have risen any during the last two hours, but is no lower."

There is also a small gorge at the railroad bridge, extending to Herr's Island. A dispatch yesterday afternoon reported the Sharpsburg bridge in danger from the gorge immediately above that structure. Up to ten o'clock last night, however, the gorges had not moved and were not likely to move soon, as the river above was reported as falling.

At Montrose the water, owing to the gorge there, had overflowed the banks and was two feet deep around the Conduit Company's tanks.

Carnegie Bros. & Co.'s pump house, belonging to their "Union Works," in the Eighteenth ward, was totally destroyed by the ice this morning. The edifice was of stone and brick, and with the engine's destruction, involves a loss to the above firm of $10,000.

DAMAGE IN ALLEGHENY CITY.

All the cellars in the lower part of Allegheny City have been flooded, the water coming up the sewers. That portion of the city below Corry street, and known as "Barefoot Square," was the scene of general confusion yesterday morning, families anticipating a flood and working on till daylight, removing goods to upper stories. In no instance, however, did the water get higher than the cellars. Manufactories and mills in that part of the city have been forced to abandon work till the water recedes. At Steen's planing mill, on Corry street, the water was four feet two inches in the cellar at four o'clock yesterday morning. Work has been suspended there in consequence, the furnaces and engine being in the cellar. Manufactories and mills in that part of the city have been forced to abandon work till the water recedes. At Steen's planing mill, on Corry street, the water was four feet two inches in the cellar at four o'clock yesterday morning. Work has been suspended there in consequence, the furnaces and engine being in the cellar. The wagon manufactory of C. Coleman & Son has also stopped for the same reason.

CONDITION OF THE RIVER THIS MORNING.

At three o'clock this morning the Allegheny river had eighteen feet of water at the Suspension bridge, and was falling at the rate of about four inches per hour. The fall in twenty-four hours was six feet. At this writing there is no indication that the ice gorges at points above will move to-day, the water having receded to such an extent that there is now scarcely enough force in the current to start the heavy masses of ice which are firmly wedged between the piers of the Sharpsburg, Mechanic street and railroad bridges.

Incidents of the Inundation.

The family of S. Hood, baggage master on the Pittsburgh mail train, met him with a skiff and conveyed him to his home on the arrival of the train at Monongahela City.

Godfrey & Clark's paper mill was stopped by the high water.

At West Elizabeth a crowd was gathered in front of the Methodist Episcopal church, and at 7:30, the time for the opening of services, the water was just level with the front steps. It was still rising, and the members were discussing the propriety of abandoning services.

At Peter's creek the telegraph poles of the railroad company were covered by the water, and the creek transformed into a lake, which extended two miles back into the country.

At Mingo another lake had been formed, extending a couple of miles into the country, and just below here Mr. Houston was running a ferry line to his house.

The church at Limetown was also submerged, and in many of the houses in the vicinity the water was up to the window-sill of the first floor.

Camden, on the Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charleston Railroad, Dravosburg, West Elizabeth, Limetown, Coal Bluff, Peter's Creek and Monongahela City were submerged, and Captains Risher, Crump, Gamble and Lyon are rendering their services, had to paddle in skiffs to reach their residences.

William Neal of McKeesport lost two tipples, valued at $1,000.

J. C. Risher & Co. lost very heavily. Two empty barges of theirs at McKeesport, worth $1,500, were sunk. At the Ellrs Furnace landing, in Pool No. 1, they have six loaded barges, and three empty flats. Loss, $6,000. At Bennett's Landing, Clinton Mills, South Side, two loaded barges, six empty barges and three flats. Loss, $10,000. At the landing the steamer Lion broke loose from her moorings during the ice gorge on Sunday and sunk at Painter's mill—loss $20,000. The steamer is a total wreck and there is not a dollar of insurance upon her. At Cincinnati, or Coal Haven landing, four miles above the city, the firm had nineteen loaded barges cut down, entailing a loss of $5,000; also, at the same landing, twelve empty barges, valued at $6,000. Their total loss is at least, $75,000.

MILL SWEPT AWAY.

There has been a partial break-up of the ice in Chartiers creek, and some damage has been done. The saw mill of Mr. Hastinge, with the dam and bridge, have been swept away. The mill stood at Hastings' station, some miles below Harrietsville, in South Fayette township. There was a gorge at this place, and also at Prestley's bend and the mouth of Miller's run. There is considerable anxiety among property owners along the banks of the stream, as the ice is heavy and its sudden movement would cause serious damage.

BRIDGES DAMAGED OR SWEPT AWAY.

A portion of the county bridge at Bridgeville tavern was destroyed, rendering the bridge impassable, and likewise a portion of the bridge at Woodville.

The county bridge at Moss station, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, was swept away on Tuesday, and likewise the county bridge at Brinton station. Both of these bridges were built last year. The loss will be about $6,000.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company will transfer its freight and other business with that road, by using the switches and side tracks through the Edgar Thompson steel works at Bessemer station. The railroad bridge at Davidson's, on the Southwestern Railroad, branch of Connellsville, was also badly damaged by the flood. The bridge was abandoned, and the passengers were transferred in hand cars. The railroad bridges will be repaired at once.

WAIFS FROM THE WRECK.

William Wilson, Henry Cloud, Edward Sharp and William Bazaline, who were carried off with the Smithfield street bridge fleet, took to the shanty boat, when the barges were about striking Brunot's Island. Though they received the shock, they swung around the island in safety, and were landed opposite the mouth of Chartier's creek, about dark, whence cold, hungry and tired, they made their way to a house on the island, where they were taken care of. Two of them came to the city yesterday morning, leaving the others in charge of the boat.

The Gipsey, belonging to Walton & Co., yesterday afternoon, went to the rescue of the Elizabeth, which was grounded and on top of a coal boat, in a position calculated to break her in pieces when the river began to fall. She was successfully pulled off, and is again all right.

How's your tipple, when queried by a river man, is not addressed to members of "Murphy's gang."

The extensive saw mill of J. N. & S. P. Large, nearly opposite Elizabeth, suffered severely on Tuesday night. The loss is estimated at $10,000.

Three flats, one empty and one loaded, from the Iron City Works of Paeips, Mittenzwei & Co., in Pool No. 3, were caught in No. 2. The fuel boat contained slack. The flats were not injured. One of Keeling's barges was also caught in Pool No. 2, and securely moored at the landing.

Walton & Co., lost six flats of nut coal and one of lump coal from their upper works near the lock. They lose nothing at their saw mill or lower works. The loss at the upper works will be $4,200.

Woods & Schrader, at Elizabeth, lost their tipple, valued at $3,000. Foster's tipple, just below, worth $4,000, was also carried away.

George Lysle & Sons will lose here and at Cincinnati about $35,000.

Jake Boner's shanty and three empty barges, worth $2,000, have been lost.

The old stone stable across Sheet's Run, Six-Mile Ferry, in which are kept the mules of the Hays Coal Company, made a narrow escape from destruction on Monday night. The ice gorging in the river, and uniting under the stable, flooded it and raised it from its foundation. There was almost a panic among the mules.

Captain Jutte, of the Vigilant steamer, lost six empty flats and two filled with slack. These were in Pool No. 1, and ne estimates his loss at $2,500. Captain Jutte owned seven slack boats and the fuel boat steamer, sunk by the ice just below Keeling's tipple, in Birmingham, near Dam No. 1. His loss is placed at $3,000. Captain Robert Cargo lost $3,000 in the same steamer. John Cabed, the engineer, $3,000, and B. Eckert, $1,000. There was no insurance on the Relief.

Daft & Horn, of Elizabeth, suffered a loss of $3,000.

Messrs. Horner & Roberts, on the opposite side of the river from Elizabeth, lost two barges filled with coal and one empty flat, the whole aggregating $3,000.

O'Neil & Co., of Elizabeth, lose at least $25,000.

THE COMMERCIAL'S DISPATCHES.

FROM IRONTON—RIVER RISING.

IRONTON, O., January 17, 9 P. M. The river raised ten feet since last evening and is rising one and a-half inches per hour this evening, and is full of floating ice. About eight feet will bring it up to the railroad, two and a-half more will bring the water to its August rise of 1875. Four barges passed down in ice.

POMEROY.

POMEROY, O., January 17, 8 P. M. River stationary; ice thin; weather cloudy, with prospects of rain. Over fifty barges passed since this time yesterday.

THE FLOOD AT CINCINNATI.

CINCINNATI, January 17, 1 P. M.—The river at noon is forty-eight feet three inches, and rising four inches per hours. There is considerable heavy drift running, but very little ice. The merchants below Front street are removing their goods from the cellars. The wreck of the steamer Andes moved down about four hundred feet this morning, and now lies about two hundred feet above the Suspension bridge, with a tendency to drift down further inside the pier and against the Mail Line wharf boat. They cut out extra fastenings, and moving closer in the shore. The river at Pomeroy and Middleport is about forty-six feet and rising three inches per hour. At Portsmouth, forty-nine feet five inches. At Ironton, fifty-two feet. At Catlettsburg, fifty-one feet and rising four inches per hour.

ANXIETY AT LOUISVILLE.

LOUISVILLE, January 17.—The river is rising an inch per hour. At present there are twenty feet in the canal. The indications are that an overflow, accompanied with disastrous results, may occur at any time. The wrecked steamer Calumet, struck by ice at Cincinnati a few days ago, was caught and landed here to-day with nineteen empty barges.

THE RIVER RAGING FROM STEUBENVILLE TO CINCINNATI.

CINCINNATI, January 17.—The river was forty-nine feet at six P. M., and still rising three inches per hour. There is considerable drift running but no ice. The Middleport gorge is expected here in the morning. Mail line boats will begin regular trips between here and Louisville to-morrow.

Specials to the *Commercial* reports fifty feet six inches at Portsmouth at six P. M., and rising two inches per hour. There has been a rise of four feet at Gallipolis since last night. The river is now stationary. One hundred and eight boats of all descriptions passed Gallipolis to-day in the heavy ice which has been running all day.

At Pomeroy the river is stationary to-night, and the ice thin.

At Charleston the Kanawha is thirty feet seven inches and falling, with rain all day.

At Steubenville the river is about thirty feet and stationary; full of heavy ice and wrecks from Pittsburgh. The steamer Fanchon was struck by a coal boat wreck, lost one wheel house and had her shaft broken. The weather is reported mild and threatening rain above.

Fire Last Night.

Fire was discovered about eight o'clock last evening in 1241 Penn avenue, occupied by J. Campbell as a cigar store and dwelling house and by a man named Moran, whose family reside in the upper portion. Despite the speedy advent of the engines both families lost their furniture. The building was also damaged considerably, but the loss has not been estimated.

A CHILD of Mr. Amos Totten, of the Fourth ward, Allegheny, was severely bitten in her left cheek by a dog yesterday. The child's father shot the dog.

WESTERN PENNA. HOSPITAL.

Annual Meeting and Election—Report of the President for the Centennial Year—Financial and General Condition of the Hospitals at Dixmont and in the Twelfth Ward.

The annual meeting of the contributors to the Western Pennsylvania Hospital, which includes the Asylum for the Insane at Dixmont and the Twelfth ward establishment, was held at the former place yesterday afternoon. Quite a number of leading citizens were present on the occasion, including Gen. J. K. Moorhead, Hon John Scott, Hon. F. R. Brunot, Reuben Miller, Jr., and R. Miller, Jas. F. Kincaid, J. Jarrett Amos, the latter of Baltimore; J. Harvey Miller, Capt. C. W. Batchelor, John Harper, Joseph Albree, W. A. Herron, W. W. Wallace, Isaac Jones, W. H. Kincaid, J. B. Jackson Jehu Haworth, Geo. A. Berry, John Moorehead, Hon. O. O. Phillips, Mayor of Allegheny, Wm. Townsend, Alex. Nimick, John A. Harper, Captain W. P. Herbert, P. H. Williams, Wm. Darlington, W. P. Weyman, W. McClurg, F. Bissell, Rev. Moore, John Doyle, Dr. Riggs, Rev. S. F. Scovel, D. D., Dr. King, Dr. J. B. Murdoch, Gillison Mahew, uncle of Mrs. Dr. Reed, of New York, and M. Spang. Many of the visitors were accompanied by their ladies, daughters or sisters. A very pleasant hour and a half was passed in making the tour of the entire institution and inspecting the workings of the various departments. Dr. J. A. Reed, his estimable wife and family, Dr. Bangs and Ayres, and their assistants were unremitting in their attentions. About one o'clock the whole party sat down to a luscious repast, which we need not say was heartily relished. Dinner over the contributors met in the chapel for the purpose of holding the annual election for managers. Ex Senator Hon. John Scott was called to the chair, and Joseph Albree, Esq., chosen Secretary.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

The report of the President John Harper, Esq., was then read by that gentleman. It opens with an allusion to the fact that the Hospital, though under one management, is composed of two distinct departments—the Hospital for the Insane at Dixmont, and the General Hospital in his city. In regard to the department for the insane, the following facts are gleaned from the report:

On the 30th of September, 1875, there were 491 patients in this department of the institution; since that time 186 have been admitted, making the total number under treatment for the year 684; of these 202 have been discharged or died, and there remained in the hospital on December 1, 1876, 268 males and 214 females, in all 482. The average number during the year was 500; the highest number was 514, and the lowest was 482. Our hundred and forty-eight, of those admitted during the year, were committed by the public authorities, and forty-five by their friends. Of the number under treatment, seventy-four were restored; fifty two were improved; thirty were unimproved, and 46 died; 103 were males and 95 females. Since the opening of the hospital, in 1856, three thousand one hundred and seventy-four patients have been under treatment, and of this number one thousand seven hundred and seventy-two and seven hundred and forty-nine have been much improved.

Notwithstanding the overcrowded condition of the hospital, no "private patient" has ever been denied admission, and the indigent insane have the same care and kindness extended to them as is bestowed to those patients in more fortunate circumstances. Thus the primary object in the establishment of this institution, as well as the equally humane purposes of the State, are fully carried out.

The costly "landslide," which threatened the destruction of the building for so many years, has at last been wholly removed, and no further danger is apprehended from this cause. During the year 15,000 cubic yards of this unsettled slope were removed, and the laborious work completed.

The mortgage to James Gilleland, on the purchase of the land, amounting to $6,000, has been paid off, and the hospital properly is thus relieved from all incumbrance.

The following sums are asked of the Legislature, for the ensuing year:

Salaries, wages, etc	$30,000
Insurance	1,000
Enlarging laundry, etc	4,500
Steam boilers	1,400
Carpenter shop, etc	1,500
Addition to barn	1,500
Total	$41,900

The visits of Governor Hartranft and Miss Dix, during the year, are mentioned with pleasure and satisfaction.

In regard to the General Hospital, the report says: On the 30th of September, 1875, there were 73 patients in this department; 698 have been since admitted, making 769 under treatment during the year. Of these 391 were discharged or died; leaving in the hospital on September 30, 1876, 78 patients. The lowest number under treatment during the year was 68; and the highest number, 113.

President Harper directs attention to the report of the Executive Committee. It shows to every intelligent friend of humanity, who will examine it, that this field for doing good ought not to be contracted. In all probability it will be, however, unless the Endowment Fund is enlarged, which is hardly possible now; or legislation speedily obtained to enable the institution to collect from the authorities in charge of the poor, a portion at least, of the cost of maintenance of indigent patients, together with the expenses of burial in such as die in this hospital. It is enough to state that during the past year the whole income of this endowment fund has been expended, and a sum exceeding $5,000 additional; while comparative statistics prove that the hospital is conducted at a less cost per patient than other similar institutions of the country.

The report was accepted and ordered printed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

On motion of General Moorhead the reading of the other reports was dispensed with, but we append an extract from the report of Mr. J. A. Harper, Treasurer, which is as follows:

DR.

To balance per settlement, October 9, 1875		$ 2,790 97
Donation from Wm. Morrison, Esq	$ 1,000 00	
Donation from Frank S. Bissell	600 00	1,600 00
Interest, one year's coupons of $40,000 bond		70 00
Warrants of the Governor on the State Treasurer for 1st and 2d installments, on account of amount appropriated per first section of Act approved April 27, 1876	22,900 00	
Warrants of the Governor on the State Treasurer for 1st and 2d installments, on account of amount appropriated by second section of Act approved April 27, 1876	22,000 00	44,900 00
Earnings of the hospital during the year		112,142 50
		$161,503 47

CR.

By warrants drawn by the Executive Committee on the Treasurer paid during the year (including thirty-seven outstanding warrants of last year, amounting to $7,360 15)	$130,235 90
Amount of donation invested (in $1,000 bond Allegheny Valley Railroad Company)	1,000 00
Balance in Treasury	21,267 57
	$161,543 47

The statement of the Twelfth Ward Hospital, for the year ending October 25, 1876, is as follows:

DR.

To balance in Treasury at time of last settlement	$1,671 47
Earnings of the hospital during year	2,424 14
One year's interest on $2,000 bonds of the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company	146 00
One year's interest on note of $41,382 71 of Isabella Furnace Company	3,310 70
One year's interest on $57,000 Bonds of City of Pittsburgh Water Loan	3,990 00
Balance of last year's interest on Mortgage $100,000 Mercantile Library Hall Company (unpaid at time of last settlement)	1,000 00
Payment on account of this year's interest on $100,000 Mortgage Mercantile Library Hall Company	6,500 00
One year's ground rent from Pennsylvania Railroad Company	4,000 00
Balance due the Treasurer	340 23
	$23,382 54

CR.

By warrants drawn on the Treasurer by Executive Committee paid during the year (including outstanding warrant at last settlement) $23,382 54

OFFICERS AND MANAGERS.

An election was then held for seven managers to serve for three years. Messrs. Wm. A. Herron and John Moorhead were appointed tellers, and Messrs. Wm. M. Lyon, Geo. A. Berry, F. H. Collier, T. M. Howe, J. A. Harper and Jno. B. McFadden renominated. Mr. A. Garrison was named for the place left vacant by the regretted demise of the zealous Alexander Speer. The seven nominees were elected unanimously, whereupon the contributors adjourned, and a meeting of the managers was held for organization. The ever faithful John Harper was re-elected President; R. Miller, Jr., and Isaac Jones chosen Vice Presidents, and J. A. Harper Secretary and Treasurer. The board then adjourned.

As quite a number of the visitors had not participated in the tour of inspection heretofore mentioned, a party was made up and under the escort of Dr. Reed and his staff, the entire establishment was "done." Everything was found in excellent order; the patients, without exception, gave evidence of the most careful treatment, and the highest compliments were showered on Dr. Reed and his good lady for their most exemplary supervision and the attentive zeal of their assistants.

The entire party returned to the city by the four o'clock train, thoroughly pleased with the day's inspection.

Death of a Pioneer.

The decease of Mr. Alexander Maclay, on Tuesday, at the age of seventy-six, leaves another gap in the ranks of Pittsburgh's pioneers. He was the last of six brothers, and, excepting a surviving sister, the last of twelve children, all of whom had been residents of this section for years. He was a genial citizen, a good father, a kind friend, and a true Christian. The funeral will take place at 2:30 this afternoon from his late residence, 34 Gum street. Services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church.

IT speaks for itself! is what a lady said of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup the other day, for a single bottle cured my child of a most dreadful cough.

THE TEMPERANCE WORK.

Meetings at the Fifth Avenue M. P Church and Other Places Last Evening.

The audience that assembled in the Fifth Avenue M. P. church last evening was simply a repetition of the large audiences which have gathered at this place each evening for the past two months in the interest of the temperance work. The noonday meetings are also largely attended, the capacity of the building being inadequate to accommodate the people, and the interest manifested at each meeting makes it difficult to determine the end of this wonderful work.

After the usual devotional exercises the following persons were introduced to the audience and made short addresses: Mr. Murphy, Mr. McQuillan, Captain Fallwood, Mr. Bryce, John McCombs, Mr. Perry, Mr. Weir and Colonel Realf.

A meeting of ladies interested in the temperance work will be held in the Smithfield street M. E. church this afternoon at three o'clock, for the purpose of organizing an auxiliary society to the Young Men's Temperance Union.

THE TEMPERANCE ENSIGN

is the name of a new semi-monthly paper, published under the editorial supervision of the Rev. Alexander Clark, D.D. It is a neatly printed sheet, in quarto form, and full of readable matter. The publishers are sons of Dr. Clark, and while the greater portion of the work devolves upon them, they will have an experienced hand to help and guide them. The initial number contains an excellent portrait of Mr. Francis Murphy. George L. Hall is the general agent. The subscription price is one dollar a year, in advance.

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The overflow meeting in this church last night was largely attended, and quite a number of names were added to the pledge. Mr. George H. Garbr opened the meeting by reading a portion of scripture, Mr. Morrow and Mr. Gibson offered up prayers. The following gentlemen made brief remarks: Messrs. Reddick, Webber, McGuire, McKloy, Nichols, Dawson and Gilbert M. McMasters. There will be another meeting there to-night, when several good speakers will be present and address the meeting. All are invited.

TEMPERANCE NOTES.

A Murphy temperance meeting will be held in the Sandusky street Baptist Church, Allegheny, this (Thursday) evening. Addresses will be made by Colonel Richard Realf, Captain Rose, Pollock and others. Good singing by a choir.

P. S. Dilworth, an old lecturer on temperance, is about to start out on a lecturing tour again as an aid to the great work Mr. Murphy is carrying on in this city. Heretofore he has traveled with an independent lecture and met with great success wherever he went.

A good meeting was held at Braddock, on Tuesday evening, which was ably addressed by Wm. Fulton and Rev. Mr. Wilkinson. There were forty-six signers of the pledge, making two hundred in all who have signed in this place.

THE SCHOOL BOARD BILL

Action of the Central Board of Education.

The bill offered by Senator McNeill, relative to the reissue of school bonds at eight per cent. interest, has been considered by the Committee on Legislation of the Central Board of Education, who, at a special meeting called for the purpose, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That our representatives at Harrisburg be requested to use their efforts to secure the passage of an act to enable our school boards to sell new bonds at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent., and not exceeding in amount the present bonded indebtedness. The proceeds from the sale of such bonds shall only be used for the purpose of funding bonds now due or falling due, and for no other purpose.

The committee consists of T. J. Craig, C. Evans, Wm. Burtt, C. C. Taylor and John L. Vaughan.

The present bonded indebtedness of the various school boards of this city is estimated at $800,000. The impression is almost universal among business men that these bonds can be readily renewed at six per cent., and that there is not the slightest necessity for paying a higher rate of interest.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

United States District Court—Judge Ketcham.

The New York and Cleveland Gas Coal Company *et al.* vs. James Casey, Pittsburgh. Restraining order continued after argument.

Thomas N. Miller, bankrupt, Pittsburgh. The exceptions of Loomis and Collard to the recording of the resolution of composition, &c., overruled and resolution of composition confirmed. The said resolution ordered to be recorded and the state of assets and debts to be filed, the said composition to be liable and binding upon all parties concerned to the full extent and for all the purposes provided in the act of Congress.

Jacob Auman *et al.* vs. Solomon Coffman, Indiana county. Order made for hearing on motion for injunction on the 1st pr